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CATECHISM
OF
ROMAN HISTORY

E. M. SEWELL



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A CATECHISM
OF
ROMAN HISTORY.

EDITED BY

ELIZABETH M. SEWELL,

AUTHOR OF

THE CHILD'S FIRST HISTORY OF ROME, 'CATECHISM OF ENGLISH HISTORY'
ETC.



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PREFACE.

A CATECHISM OF ROMAN HISTORY can scarcely in itself require a Preface, and the only remarks which the Editor would make will refer to Catechisms in general.

They are very common, yet very much found fault with. But the critics seem to imagine that they are put forth as the sole method of teaching History.

No idea can be farther from the mind of the Editor than this.

Catechisms are useful adjuncts, but they are nothing more. Their value consists in enabling a child or young person at the age when memory is vigorous to retain the outlines of the History of one country whilst reading in detail the History of another—to remember Rome whilst they are studying Greece—or France whilst they are learning to understand England. Those who dislike Catechisms must use abridgments of some kind if they hope to give their pupils anything like an outline of general History. May it not be more

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JEFF BONCHURCH :
ember 17, 1872.

CATECHISM

of

ROMAN HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

FOUNDATION OF ROME

(B.C. 753.)

What is known as to the primitive inhabitants of a great part of Italy, Greece, and the Islands of the Ægean Sea?

Very little is known with certainty. They are commonly termed Pelasgi, and it is thought that they belonged to a branch of the great Indo-European family of mankind, which derived its descent from Japhet, the youngest son of Noah.

Why is this division of the human race called Indo-European?

Because a portion of the family migrated to the east, towards the river Indus, and a portion settled in Europe.

What are the names of the chief tribes which inhabited Italy at the time of the foundation of Rome?

The Etruscans, dwelling in the district of Etruria, now called Tuscany; the Latins, who formed a confederacy of thirty towns, of which Alba Longa

was the chief ; and the Umbrians, who are supposed to have included the Marsians, Volscians, and Sabines : there were also Greek settlements in the south of Italy.

To which of these tribes did the Romans belong ?

They seem to have been for the most part Latins ; tracing their legendary descent from Æneas, a Trojan prince, who came to Italy after the destruction of Troy by the Greeks, and is said to have married the daughter of Latinus, King of Latium, and to have been the ancestor of Numitor, the grandfather of Romulus, who founded Rome.

Do we know anything with certainty about the foundation and earliest history of Rome ?

No ; when Rome was burnt by the Gauls, about 390 B.C., most of the historic records were destroyed, and the only history which remained was in the form of legends or poems, from which we cannot confidently gather any true account, though for the sake of convenience the legendary history of the kings is often spoken of as fact.

Give the legendary history of the foundation of Rome.

Numitor, King of Latium, is said to have been dethroned by his brother Amulius, who put Numitor's only son to death, and made his daughter, Rhea Silvia, a priestess of the goddess Vesta, and in consequence bound by vows never to marry. Rhea Silvia had, however, two boys—twins—whom their uncle commanded to be drowned in the Tiber. The basket in which they were placed floated down the stream and lodged on the bank ; and the children being found by the shepherd Faustulus, were taken by him to his wife, who brought them up. The story goes on to say that Romulus and Remus, on reaching manhood, and learning the *history of their birth*, restored their grandfather,



Numitor, to the throne, and obtained permission from him to found a city, afterwards called Rome.

What is the legend of the death of Remus?

It is said that, envious of Romulus, to whose lot it had fallen to lay the foundation of the new city, he leaped over the low, rising walls in mockery. Romulus, being very angry, struck his brother a blow which killed him on the spot, and he was buried near the river Tiber.

What is the date generally given for the foundation of Rome?

B.C. 753 is the date assumed, but this is without any real historic ground.

Describe the situation of Rome.

Rome was built by degrees upon seven low hills rising near the banks of the river Tiber, about twenty miles from its mouth. The oldest part of the city stood on the hill which is called the Palatine.

How is Romulus said to have peopled his new city?

By offering the Capitoline Hill as a refuge for the inhabitants of the small neighbouring states who were discontented with their own government, or for those who had committed offences against the laws. A great many people thus, as it is stated, gathered round him ; but there was still a difficulty in the settlement of the new town, for the people of the adjoining districts refused their daughters and sisters as wives to persons of such unruly character.

To what stratagem did Romulus have recourse in this emergency?

He proclaimed a festival, and invited the Latins and some of the Sabines as his guests. When all were assembled, the Romans seized upon the women who had been refused to them, and took them home to be their wives.

What was the result of this act of treachery?

A war between the Romans and a portion of the Sabine tribes, which was ended by the intervention of the Sabine women, who were willing to remain with their husbands.

What was the political condition of the two states after this time ?

They are said to have been united—an agreement being made that Romulus and Tatius should reign jointly, and that after their death a Roman and a Sabine should be king alternately.

Is it supposed that the city was enlarged to receive the Sabines ?

Yes. The Sabines are said to have built a new town upon the Capitoline and Quirinal Hills, and to have acknowledged Titus Tatius as their king ; whilst Romulus ruled from the Palatine. After the death of Titus Tatius, some years later, Romulus reigned alone over both people.

What is the story of the end of Romulus ?

The Romans believed that he was taken by the god Mars into heaven, and they worshipped him as a god under the name of Quirinus. He was considered the author of the political constitution of the Romans.

How were the inhabitants of Rome said to have been at this time divided ?

Into the Ramnes, or Romani, and the Tities, or Sabines, taking their name from Titus Tatius—these formed the Roman *Populus*. Each tribe was divided into thirty *curiæ*, and each of these into ten *gentes*, or houses, each *gens* containing 100 men.

Was there any other tribe ?

Yes ; one called the Luceres, which chiefly consisted of Etruscans. It existed for a long time separately without enjoying the same privileges as the two other tribes, but was placed on an equal footing by Tarquinius Priscus, the fifth King of who was himself an Etruscan.

Were there any persons not included in the members of the three tribes ?

Yes ; besides the sovereign people, or members of the tribes, there were clients (retainers of certain families) and slaves.

What were the governing bodies in Rome by which the laws were made ?

The Senate and the *Comitia Curiata*.

What was the formation of the Senate ?

It is said to have consisted at first of 100 members, increased to 200 when the Sabines and Romans were united, and to 300 when the Luceres were admitted to the privileges of citizenship.

What was the Comitia Curiata ?

A primitive assembly of the *Populus*, or Patricians, who were allowed the privilege of confirming or rejecting the decrees of the Senate. The office of the Roman King was to enforce rather than to make the law. He was also the chief captain and high priest of the nation.

CHAPTER II.

KINGS—*continued*.

(B.C. 715–509.)

Who was chosen to succeed Romulus as king ?

After a year of interregnum, Numa Pompilius was chosen from among the Sabines B.C. 715.

What was the principal object which Numa kept in view throughout his reign ?

The establishment of the religious rites and ceremonies, for which he laboured as Romulus had done for the civil laws and government. He founded colleges of priests and of augurs, who observed the flight and feeding of birds as tokens of the will of the gods ; and he regulated the calendar, making the

year to consist of twelve lunar months, or 355 days, of which some were set apart as religious festivals ; and in all his institutions Numa is said to have been guided by the nymph Egeria.

Have we reason to believe that Numa Pompilius was the real author of the religious institutions ascribed to him ?

Many of them doubtless existed long before his reign. As the Greeks and Romans sprang from a common stock, the religion of both countries was essentially the same—that of the Greeks being, however, clothed in a more imaginative form.

What famous building is attributed to the reign of Numa ?

The building commonly called the Temple of Janus, which was open in time of war and shut in time of peace. It was not, however, strictly speaking, a temple, but a covered way situated close to the Forum.

Who succeeded Numa Pompilius ?

Tullus Hostilius, B.C. 672. He was chosen from among the Romans.

What were the characteristics of his reign ?

A disregard for all the ordinances of religion, and a state of warfare with neighbouring states. Alba Longa was the city first attacked.

What were the leading features of the contest with Alba Longa ?

For some time its issue was uncertain, and at length it was agreed that the conflict should be decided by a combat between three brothers of the family of the Horatii, on the side of the Romans ; and three belonging to the Curiatii, on the side of the Albans. The Curiatii, who gained the first advantage, were slain by the last remaining of the Horatii, and Alba Longa became from that time
part of Rome.

Did Alba Longa rest contented with her yoke ?

No ; the Albans soon revolted, but they were again defeated ; their city was destroyed, and many of the people were removed to the Coelian Hill. Some of the noble families obtained the rights of Roman citizens ; the rest remained in an inferior position, neither clients nor full citizens. By this accession of population the strength of Rome was doubled.

What were the names of the two great divisions from this time established in the Roman State ?

The Patricians, or full citizens, and the Plebeians, or subject people, who were unattached as clients to the Patrician families.

Was there peace after the subjugation of Alba Longa ?

No ; a war broke out with some of the Sabines who had not been united with the Romans, and over whom Tullus Hostilius claimed authority.

What is the account given of the death of Tullus Hostilius ?

He with his whole house are said to have been destroyed by Jupiter with a flash of lightning, as a judgment on the king's neglect of all religious worship ; and it is supposed that even the rites of sepulture were denied him by his people.

Who was next elected king ?

Ancus Martius, B.C. 640. He was a Sabine, chosen from among the Tities, and is stated to have been the grandson of Numa.

What were the principal events of this reign ?

A war with the Latins ; the building of Ostia, a seaport at the mouth of the Tiber, to which point the dominion of Rome was now extended ; and the erection of a great state prison, called the Mamertine, the remains of which may still be seen at Rome.

Give a slight account of the Latin war, with its result.

The Latins, who had concluded peace with Tullus Hostilius, rose in revolt, but were defeated. Many of their people were brought to Rome. They settled on the Aventine, and, like the Albans in the previous reign, were recognised as Plebeians.

Was this a historical event of much importance?

Yes; it concerned the whole future history of Rome, for the Plebeians now became many in number, and from this time the account of their struggles against the tyranny of their oppressors is full of interest.

Who was the fifth King of Rome?

Lucius Tarquinius Priscus, B.C. 616. He is represented as having been a man of foreign birth, high in favour with Ancus Marcius, after whose death he was chosen king.

For what is the reign of Tarquinius Priscus especially remarkable?

For the improvement and beautifying of the Roman capital. Tarquinius Priscus built the Forum, and began to surround the city with a stone wall. He also constructed the Cloaca Maxima, a most important sewer, by which the city was drained and greatly secured against inundations of the Tiber; and he is said by some to have made the Circus Maximus, a great public race-course.

What other changes were effected by this king?

He increased the pomp of the religious ceremonies, and raised the number of the senators to 300. Tradition says that the Latins, Sabines, and Etruscans were all subject to Rome at this time.

What was the fate of Tarquinius Priscus?

Though successful in war, and diligent for his country's welfare, he met with a violent death, being murdered at the instigation of the two sons of his predecessor, Ancus Martius. These young men had

hoped to succeed to the throne, and were jealous of the favour shown to the king's son-in-law, Servius Tullius, who had been brought up in the palace.

By whom was Tarquinius Priscus succeeded?

By Servius Tullius, B.C. 578. He was a man of uncertain origin, though son-in-law to the late king.

For what is the reign of Servius Tullius remarkable?

For the organisation of the Plebeians, to whom Servius showed much favour. They were formed into thirty divisions—four for the city and twenty-six for the surrounding country—and were allowed to vote in an assembly called the *Comitia Centuriata*. In this *Comitia* the Patricians and Plebeians voted together. The *Comitia Curiata*, however, was still summoned on certain occasions for civil purposes.

What measures were taken by Servius for knowing the number and condition of his Plebeian subjects?

A census of names and property was taken at yearly festivals in the country and in the city; those held in the country being termed *Paganalia*, from *pagus*, a fortified village.

What English word is derived from pagus?

Pagan, or heathen. The Christian writers gave the name of Pagani to persons who adhered to the old Roman religion because they were for the most part dwellers in the country.

What was the coinage used in Rome at this time?

A coinage of copper, and of a mixed metal called *aes*, from which the coin was termed an *as*. It was of the weight of a pound, or twelve ounces, and was stamped with the figure of an animal.

Were there any smaller coins?

Yes; there were several, such as the *semis*, or half-*as*; the *triens*, or one-third of an *as*; the *uncia*, or eleventh of an *as*. For sums of still smaller value leather or shells were used.

Were there any gold or silver coins?

Not till much later, silver being introduced about five years before the first Punic war, and gold not till sixty-two years later, B.C. 207.

What provision was made for the maintenance of the army?

The whole state was considered to form a regular army, including cavalry, heavy armed infantry, reserve, baggage train, carpenters, and musicians. The cavalry was formed of *Patrician* knights, who voted in the *Comitia Curiata*, with the addition of twelve centuries* of *Plebeian* knights, selected from the richest members of the community. The foot soldiers, who were all *Plebeians*, were classed according to their property. No service was expected of a *Plebeian* after the age of sixty.

What was the equipment of a Roman soldier?

The knights wore a coat of mail, thigh pieces, and helmet; they carried a shield, and were furnished with a spear, a dagger, and a sword. The armour of the heavy armed infantry was less complete, and the lighter troops were furnished only with slings, stones, bows and arrows, darts, and such like missiles.

What was the effect upon the Patricians of the favour shown by Servius Tullius to the Plebeians?

They rose in revolt, headed by the king's son-in-law, Lucius Tarquinius, whose wife, Tullia, incited him to rebellion against her own father.

What was the end of this revolt?

Servius Tullius was slain, and it is said that his unnatural daughter, in haste to hail her husband king, drove over her father's body in the place afterwards called *Vicus Sceleratus*, or the Wicked Street. Tarquinius was raised to the throne B.C. 534, and is

* A century seems originally to have consisted of thirty men, but the number in later times varied from fifty to a thousand.

generally known by the name of Superbus, or the Proud.

What were the characteristics of the reign of Tarquinius Superbus?

He was an oppressive ruler, but a great military general. He founded colonies in the neighbouring districts, which became a great source of after prosperity to Rome.

How was the reign of Tarquin ended?

His subjects were disgusted with his oppression and indignant with the wickedness of his sons, one of whom, named Sextus, committed a deadly offence against his cousin, Collatinus, a Patrician of great eminence. Collatinus leagued with Tarquin's nephew Junius Brutus, and under their joint leadership the people rose in rebellion. Tarquin was deposed, and took refuge in Etruria, and with him ends the list of the Roman kings, B.C. 509.

Had Rome attained under her kings to any high state of civilisation?

Civilisation must have been at that time as far advanced among the Romans as it was in our own country in what are termed the Middle Ages. There was a regular army; agriculture flourished; trade was carried on by means of a metal coinage; and the magnificent remains, still standing, of the public buildings of this time speak for the architectural skill as well as for the prosperity of the nation.

CHAPTER III.

CONSULS APPOINTED.

(B.C. 510.)

What was the form of government chosen after the expulsion of the Tarquins?

The republican. Two supreme magistrates,

ne?

es. In the first conspiracy for this object Brutus were implicated, and suffered due consequence by the stern command of their king; but afterwards obtained the help of Porsena, lord of Etruria, in which country he had great influence.

Who was the great champion of his country on this occasion?

Horatius Cocles, who stood close upon the bridge over the Tiber, by which the Etruscans would have been enabled to take possession of the city, and defend it until it was destroyed. Horatius then plunged across the river and reached the opposite shore. He was hailed with grateful acclamations by his countrymen; a statue was erected in his honour, and as much land was granted to him as he could drive the plough round in a day.

What was the success of Porsena?

3 Roman legends say that he succeeded

and finding his hopes thus frustrated, he made another appeal to the Latins and Sabines, and war in consequence broke out between them and the Romans.

To what especial measure had the Romans now recourse to strengthen their power ?

They concentrated the supreme authority for the time being in the hands of one man under the title of Dictator, and elected Titus Lartius for the office, B. C. 498.

By what great battle is the Latin war said to have been concluded ?

By the battle of the Lake Regillus, in which, according to the old legends, the Romans gained the victory through the help of the gods Castor and Pollux, who were seen riding on white horses and fighting on their side.

What is the supposed history of the death of Tarquin ?

It is said that having been wounded in the battle of Lake Regillus, he fled to the Greek settlement of Cumæ, in South Italy, and soon afterwards died, B. C. 495. With his death peace was restored to Rome.

What was the internal condition of Rome when peace was established ?

Many of the Plebeians were very poor, and consequently incurred debt to the Patricians ; failing to make due payment, they became the slaves of their creditors, and great distress ensued.

How did the Plebeians resent the oppression of the Patricians ?

In the year B. C. 495 they rose in rebellion, and, encamping in a large body on a hill, afterwards called the Sacred Mount, outside Rome, they resolved not to re-enter the city without redress.

Who was sent to prevail upon them to return?

The Consul, Menenius Agrippa, who caught their attention by an apt fable, in which he showed that death to the State must result from disunion among its members.

What agreement was now concluded between the Patricians and Plebeians?

It was agreed that all the obligations of the debtors should be cancelled, and that those who had been made slaves for debt should be released.

What officers were appointed to protect the rights of the people?

Two Plebeian officers called Tribunes, whose persons were to be considered inviolable. There were to be also two Plebeian Ædiles, or superintendents of the public buildings and controllers of the national resources, for the security of a good supply of provisions. These concessions being made, the Plebeians submitted and returned to Rome.

What serious result had this disaffection of the Plebeians upon the general prosperity of Rome?

The cultivation of the fields having been neglected, there ensued a famine, for the relief of which it was necessary to import corn from Sicily.

Was this corn given freely to the poor?

The Patrician, Caius Marcius Coriolanus, anxious to reduce the power of the Plebeians, proposed that the imported corn should be granted to them only on the condition of the relinquishment of their newly-acquired privileges.

How did the Plebeians revenge themselves on Coriolanus?

They exiled him, B.C. 491, forcing him to take refuge among the Volscians.

What was the after history of Coriolanus?

He became the leader of the Volscians in a war

against the Romans, and entering the Roman territory, took several towns and advanced close to Rome itself. In great alarm the most distinguished men of the State were sent to him to entreat for mercy, but he refused to listen. At length the noblest matrons of Rome, headed by Veturia, the mother of Coriolanus, and his wife Volumnia, came with his two little children to his tent, and to their supplications he yielded and led back his army. Some say that he died an exile among the Volscians, and others that he was killed by them on his return.

Was any important law for the benefit of the Plebeians now enacted?

Yes ; an agrarian law, or a law for the distribution of land, was established by Spurius Cassius. By this a certain amount of the public lands was allotted for the use of the Plebeians ; but they had no absolute and permanent right to it, and were not looked upon as the owners of the land.

What new form of public assembly was instituted about this time?

That of the *Comitia Tributa*, which was an assembly of the people according to the local tribes into which the Plebeians were originally divided. The *Comitia Tributa* was chiefly summoned for the election of magistrates.

What decrees were the members of the Comitia Tributa allowed to pass?

Plebiscita, or decrees binding only on themselves, which afterwards attained the full force of regular laws. This was the origin of what is called in modern days a *plebiscite*, or vote of the people.

Had the feuds between the Patricians and Plebeians any effect upon the military power of Rome?

Yes ; the country became a prey to the invasions of the Etruscans, Æquians, and Volscians, and the Roman soldiers allowed themselves to be defeated

in battle rather than fight under the citizens **w**h. oppressed them.

What noble Roman family espoused the cause of the Plebeians?

The Fabii; who, finding themselves scornfully treated on account of their desertion of the Patrician interests, migrated to the banks of the Cremera, a little stream flowing into the Tiber a few miles above Rome. Here two years later, B.C. 477, they were surrounded and slain by the Veientes, with whom they had for some time been fighting on behalf of their country.

What people made formidable inroads on the Roman territory about this period?

The Æquians. They were repelled by the aid of the Dictator Quinctius Cincinnatus, who is said to have unwillingly left his farm at the call of his country.

Describe the success of Cincinnatus?

After a very short campaign he released the Roman Consul Minucius, who was besieged in his own camp by the hostile army, and he then went back in triumph to Rome, where a golden crown was granted to him; and having been for sixteen days Dictator, he joyfully returned to his farm.

CHAPTER IV.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DECENVIRS.

(B.C. 449.)

Was there at this time any written code of Roman law?

No; the laws were known only by tradition, and

the interpretation and enforcement of them was in the hands of the Patricians.

Who first demanded a written code?

The Plebeians, and though the claim was long disputed, it was finally agreed that three of the senators should be sent to Athens to study and report upon the laws of the Greeks, with a view to remodelling those of the Romans.

What steps were taken for the improvement of the laws after the return of the three senators to Rome?

Ten Patrician officers, called Decemvirs, were chosen for one year B.C. 449, to frame a code of laws. During this period they were to exercise supreme authority. The power of all other magistrates (that of the Tribunes perhaps excepted) being for the time suspended.

How did the Decemvirs fulfil their task?

At the end of the year a body of laws drawn up by them was submitted to the Senate and the *Comitia*, and being approved of, the laws were engraven on tables of metal, which were hung up in the Forum, or place of assembly.

Were the Decemvirs willing to lay down their office at the end of the appointed year?

No; they said that their work was not completed, and they framed several new laws, which were engraven on two additional tables. At the same time they acted in the most tyrannical manner, making common cause with the Patricians and committing outrages upon the Plebeians; and at the end of the second year they refused to resign or to appoint successors.

What at length brought about the downfall of the Decemvirs?

The tyranny of Appius Claudius, one of their number, who tried to possess himself of Virginia, the beautiful daughter of the Plebeian Virginius.

by causing it to be declared that she was the child of a slave. Virginius, failing to obtain protection for his daughter, slew her rather than allow her to fall into the hands of Appius.

What was the immediate result of this outrage ?

The Plebeians rose in rebellion, again retired to the Sacred Mount, and the army which had been engaged in fighting against the Sabines withdrew and took possession of the Aventine. The authority of the Decemvirs was then set at nought, and the Plebeians demanded the right of appeal against any magistrate.

What means for the restoration of peace were now taken by the Patricians ?

Valerius and Horatius, two of the most popular members of the Patrician order, were sent to treat with the Plebeians. Appius Claudius was thrown into prison, where he perished miserably by his own hand ; the Decemvirs were obliged to resign their office, and the usual Consuls and magistrates were re-appointed.

Were the new laws favourable to the Plebeians ?

They greatly protected them from arbitrary oppression ; but the Plebeians still had no share in the public lands, and marriages between them and the Patricians were illegal.

Were the Plebeians satisfied with the concessions they had gained ?

No ; they gradually claimed further rights, and after much resistance marriages between the two classes were recognised as legal. It was also agreed that Military Tribunes should sometimes take the place of Consuls, one of these Tribunes being chosen from the Plebeians.

How was the power thus granted to the Plebeians modified ?

By the introduction, B.C. 442, of the controlling

office of the Censors, who were always Patricians, and who took account of the property and revenues of the State and fixed the value of the articles to be taxed. The Censors drew up the lists of Roman citizens according to their rank, and could degrade those who proved unworthy of the position they held.

What proof have we of the wealth and power of a Plebeian at this period?

A famine having broken out in Rome, a Plebeian knight, Spurius Mœlius, became the great benefactor of the people in collecting and supplying corn; and thus gained great popularity.

How did the Patricians regard the conduct of Spurius Mœlius?

It roused their jealousy, and they accused him of aspiring to regal power. He was arraigned before the aged Dictator Quinctius Cincinnatus, but refused to appear, and was then murdered in the Forum by Ahala, the Dictator's master of the horse, and an armed band of Patrician youths.

In what important conflict was Rome about this time engaged?

In a great struggle with the Etruscan city of Veii, which was in its near neighbourhood, and which had incurred the anger of the Romans by the assistance given to the rebellious city of Fidenæ in the late wars with the Æquians and Volscians.

What is the legendary history of the siege of Veii?

The siege is said to have lasted ten years, during which time the waters of the Alban Lake rose to an enormous height and recalled to the people an ancient prophecy, which declared that Veii should never be taken till the waters in Lake Alba had run out. They accordingly set to work to drain the lake, and dig a subterranean passage by means of which they could gain access to the town.

When the work was effected and the lake drained, the Roman soldiers rushed through the passage into the city, and took it while the priests were offering sacrifices to the goddess Juno for her supposed protection.

Who was the great Roman hero in this contest ?

The general Camillus, who had been appointed Dictator, and had conducted the siege. He was granted the honour of a triumphal entry into Rome, which he entered in a chariot drawn by white horses ; but he was afterwards accused of having made an unfair distribution of the spoils of Veii, and he withdrew from Rome into voluntary exile.

CHAPTER V.

INVASION OF THE GAULS.

(B.C. 390.)

Under what circumstances did Camillus again return to Rome ?

On the occasion of the invasion of the Roman territory by the Gauls, an Indo-European race who had taken possession of the southern part of the country now called France, but anciently known as Gallia Transalpina.*

What was the course taken by the Gauls in their further inroads ?

They crossed the Alps into Italy, the northern part of which land was called from them Gallia Cisalpina ; and extending their ravages, they laid siege about this time to the Etruscan town of Clusium.

* Gallia Transalpina, or Gaul, on the further side of the Alps.
 Gallia Cisalpina, or Gaul, on this side of the Alps.

What led to the direct conflict between the Romans and the Gauls?

The inhabitants of Clusium sent to Rome for aid in their distress ; but the Romans, disinclined for a struggle with the barbarians, endeavoured to negotiate a peace. One of the Roman ambassadors, however, contrary to the law of nations, took part in a battle between the Gauls and the Etruscans, and slew one of the Gallic chiefs ; and the Gauls then advanced against Rome, B.C. 390.

Were the Romans able to repulse the Gauls?

No ; they were defeated at the battle of the Allia ; and Brennus, the leader of the Gauls, with his barbarian army, entered the city.

What was the aspect of Rome on the entry of the barbarians?

It was deserted by all its inhabitants, with the exception of eighty old men of high rank among the senators, who were sitting alone in the Forum awaiting death, in the hope of being accepted by the gods as a propitiatory sacrifice for their country. They were all slain, and the Gauls took possession of the city, burning a great portion of it.

Where had the Romans entrenched themselves?

In the Capitol, under the command of Marcus Manlius, surnamed Capitolinus.

Were they able to maintain their position?

Yes ; and after a siege of six months the Gauls, finding themselves unable to take the Capitol, withdrew to their own country on the payment of 1,000 lbs. of gold.

Did the Gauls at this time make any actual assault upon the Capitol?

The legends tell us that a body of soldiers attempted to scale the heights, but that their efforts were betrayed by the cackling of the sacred geese which were kept in the temple of Juno. Manlius

being thus awakened rushed, it is said, to the walls, threw down the first Gaul, and as he fell his companions fell with him, so that the attack resulted in complete failure.

What was the fate of Manlius ?

He was condemned to death by the Patricians, to whose order he belonged, under the pretence that he sought popularity with a view to being made king.

What was the origin of this accusation ?

The fact that Manlius had defended the cause of the Plebeians when they were grievously oppressed in the confusion and distress which followed the departure of the Gauls ; Manlius was thrown from the Tarpeian Rock, his home was destroyed, and his name was treated as disgraced.

What effect had the humiliation of Rome upon her neighbours ?

Many of them took up arms against her. The Volscians, Æquians, and Etruscans are said to have been successively subdued by Camillus, and Roman colonies were settled in Etruria.

What additional rights were about this time claimed by the Plebeians ?

In 376 B.C., about eight years after the death of Manlius, they demanded through their Tribunes, Licinius Stolo and Lucius Sextius, that one of the Consuls should be chosen from their order, and that a restriction should be laid on the appropriation of the public land, no Patrician being allowed to hold more than 500 *jugera*,* the surplus to be divided among the Plebeians. They required also that relief should be granted with regard to the relation between debtors and creditors.

* A *jugum* was 240 feet long and 120 feet broad in the original assignment of landed property, and *jugera* were given to each citizen as heritable property.

Were these demands granted ?

Yes ; but not until after a resistance of about ten years. The Plebeians owed their success to the firmness and perseverance of the Tribunes, without whose concurrence no public act could be now enforced.

Who was the first Plebeian Consul ?

Lucius Sextius, B.C. 366. From this time the privileges of the Plebeians gradually increased till all the offices of State, the priesthood not excepted, were open to their order.

What was the name given to the laws which thus reconciled the Patricians and Plebeians ?

They were called the Licinian laws, from Licinius Stolo, one of the two Tribunes who were mainly instrumental in their passing.

What lasting memorial was made in Rome of the newly-established harmony ?

A temple was dedicated to Concord in memory of the reconciliation of the two orders, which was so greatly beneficial to the nation.

What was the effect of this relief from internal discord ?

The Romans were now successful against several foreign enemies, especially the Gauls ; and allying themselves with the Latins, they engaged also in war with the Samnites, a very powerful people, occupying in the south-east of Italy a territory more extensive than their own.

What two Roman heroes won the applause of their countrymen in the contest with the Gauls ?

Titus Manlius Torquatus, and Marcus Valerius Corvus, each of whom slew a gigantic Gaul in single combat. Manlius received the surname of Torquatus from the gold chain (*torques*) which he took from the neck of his enemy ; and Valerius is said

to have been called Corvus because he was ^{aid} in his conflict by a raven, which settled upon ^{on} his helmet and flew in the face of the Gaul.

What legendary hero distinguished himself with the city of Rome?

Marcus Curtius, B.C. 362. The earth in the Forum having given way, a great chasm appeared. This the soothsayers declared could only be filled up by throwing into it Rome's greatest treasure, and Marcus Curtius thereupon, in full armour, mounted his horse, and declaring that Rome had no greater treasure than a brave citizen, leaped into the gulf, which immediately closed upon him.

CHAPTER VI.

SAMNITE WARS.

(B.C. 343-290.)

When did hostilities between Rome and Samnium first break out?

In the year B.C. 343, when the Romans, though in alliance with the Samnites, assisted the Campanians, who were the enemies of that nation. This breach of faith was the signal for a series of wars between the two people, the result of which decided the supremacy of the Romans among the states of Italy.

What are some of the leading features of the first Samnite war?

The first battle, on Mount Gaurus, was gained by the Romans under Valerius Corvus; but the Roman army was afterwards in great danger in a narrow defile among the Apennines, and was rescued only

by the courage and presence of mind of the Roman officer Decius Mus.

How did Decius Mus save his troops on this occasion ?

He climbed up one of the cliffs that enclosed the ravine, and made a band of soldiers follow him. The Samnites had to pass below this cliff in order to reach the rest of the Roman army. Decius detained the enemy in fight until his comrades in the defile had escaped, and then succeeded in forcing his way through the Samnites and reaching the Roman camp in safety.

How long did the first Samnite war last ?

About two years, at the end of which time disturbances at Rome, and disaffection among the Latins, induced the Senate to conclude a peace, and to enter into alliance with the Samnites.

What course did the Campanians now pursue ?

Finding that they could no longer depend upon the help of Rome, they turned for succour to the Latins, who took the opportunity of making great demands upon Rome, insisting that Romans and Latins should be thenceforth united as equals in one state, and that one of the Consuls and half the senators should from that time be Latins. The terms were refused, and war broke out with the Latins.

What was the success of the Romans ?

In a great battle near the foot of Mount Vesuvius they were victorious. Their general, the Consul Decius Mus, sought and found death in the conflict, a vision having appeared to the two Consuls, which announced that the general of one side and the army of the other were devoted to destruction.

What was the conclusion of the Latin war ?

It ended in the complete and final subjugation of

the Latins, and their allies, the Volscians, ~~share~~ the same fate about B.C. 338.

What was the condition of the people who were the conquered?

Many of the vanquished became Roman citizens. Some of the more important towns had to ~~relin-~~quish a part of their territory, and to send some of their leading nobles into exile, and others had Roman garrisons stationed in them, and became Roman colonies.

What various classes of men did the Roman Republic now include?

Patricians and Plebeians with equal rights, and Latins and other subject tribes or allies, as they were called, from whose population Rome drew the main supply of troops for foreign service.

What effect had the prosperity of Rome upon her Samnite neighbours?

Their jealousy was aroused, and dispute upon dispute arose, till the Samnites became at last so decidedly hostile as to help the city of Neapolis (Naples), then at war with Rome. In consequence of this the second Samnite war broke out about B.C. 326.

Which side did Neapolis take in the war?

Neapolis allied herself with Rome, but the inhabitants of Lucania and Tarentum supported the Samnites. The struggle was a very sharply-contested one, and about B.C. 322 the Samnites began to wish for peace, but they would not accede to the hard terms which the Romans offered.

Under what circumstances did the Romans themselves soon afterwards desire peace?

The Roman army under the Consuls Veturius and Postumius was shut in by the mountain pass of Caudium (called the Caudine Forks), and it was so surrounded by the Samnites that

a complete surrender was its only chance of safety. Officers and soldiers were forced to lay down their arms, and to pass under the yoke in token of submission to the Samnites. The brave Samnite commander, Pontius, then offered fair terms of peace, which were accepted, and on the delivery of 600 Roman knights as hostages the vanquished army returned to Rome in deep humiliation.

How were the tidings of the terms thus agreed upon received by the Roman Senate?

With the greatest indignation. The Senate absolutely refused to ratify the peace, and the war was not only renewed with redoubled vigour, but a decree was passed that those who were responsible for proposing the hated terms should be delivered in chains to the Samnite chief as traitors to their country.

What was the conduct of Pontius with regard to his proposed captives?

He magnanimously refused to receive them, and the war continued as before. Rome was successful, and the Samnites yielded gradually more and more, until the strength of their enemies was for a time diverted into another channel by the attacks of the Etruscans, B.C. 311.

How did this division affect the cause of the Samnites?

The Roman army being now divided, the Samnites gained a victory which compelled the Romans to appoint a Dictator, Papirius Cursor. He was able to recover the lost advantage, and the Samnites, though allied with other tribes, were soon brought to submission. In B.C. 304 they concluded peace. Several of the minor states submitted to the power of Rome at the same time.

What public work of importance was carried on by the Romans during the second Samnite war?

The great Roman road from Rome to Capua (afterwards extended to Brundisium) was made by the Consul, Appius Claudius Cæcus. It was paved with solid blocks of stone, fitting closely into one another. To this day it remains, and is still called the Via Appia. Appius Claudius Cæcus also built the first Roman aqueduct, which carried water from Præneste to Rome, a distance of about seven miles.

How long did the peace with Samnium last after this second war?

Only for six years. The Samnites then endeavoured to recover their supremacy over Lucania, a province in the south of Italy. The Lucanians placed themselves under the protection of the Romans, who demanded the withdrawal of the Samnite troops. This was refused, and the third Samnite war broke out, B.C. 298. It lasted for about eight years. The Samnites fought with unexampled bravery, but were ultimately completely conquered.

What circumstance of self-sacrifice marks the third Samnite war?

A son of Decius Mus imitated his father's example by dedicating himself to destruction as a propitiatory sacrifice to the gods at the battle of Sentinum. The Romans took courage after this act of self-devotion had been accomplished, and the battle, which had been nearly lost, was won under the Consul Fabius Maximus.

Were the Samnites able to continue the struggle after their defeat?

Yes; they rallied and fought many battles, in one of which their great commander, Pontius, was taken prisoner and brought to Rome.

How was Pontius treated by the Romans?

He was basely beheaded by command of Fabius,

who was forgetful of the generosity shown by him to the Roman army and to the prisoners who had been in his power ; this crime has always been considered a great stain upon the Roman honour.

When did the third Samnite war come to an end, and what was its result ?

It ended the year B.C. 290.* The Samnites were obliged to acknowledge the supremacy of Rome. The Umbrians and Etruscans, and two of the Keltic or Gallic tribes, soon followed their example. Colonies were established in the subject states ; and Rome being now mistress of the whole of Central Italy, was for a few years at peace.

What were the relations between the Patricians and Plebeians at the time of the cessation of hostilities among the Italian states ?

Public offices and political power were so equally divided that the distinction between the two orders was lost sight of, even half the priestly colleges being filled with Plebeians.

Did any grievance still remain among the poor ?

Yes ; the agrarian law, framed by Licinius, was often set at nought, and a share of the public land was but rarely given to the needy soldiers who had often shed their blood in distant lands for the defence of Rome.

What new sources of revenue had Rome of late acquired ?

Tribute paid from the vanquished nations ; and large tracts of country, including forests, mines, and harbours, which had been added by foreign conquests to the riches of the State.

* The town of Herculaneum, which lies buried beneath the lava of Mount Vesuvius, and from which so many of the most beautiful ancient works of art have been excavated, belonged to the Samnites and was taken by the Romans in this war.

How did this increase of wealth affect the character and condition of the Romans?

The claims of wealth now took the place which had been accorded to Patrician birth. Agriculture was considered honourable, and the greatest generals and statesmen were not ashamed of its pursuit. Art and architecture also flourished, and great improvements were made in the streets and houses of the city.

What was the ordinary outer costume of the Roman men about this period?

The upper classes wore a *toga*, or gown of white wool; a brighter white being given to the *toga* of candidates for offices by rubbing it with chalk. It was then called the *toga candida*. From this custom we have our word *candid*. The way in which the *toga* was worn has been a subject of much discussion; it was considered the peculiar distinction of the Roman colleges, and the use of it was forbidden to exiles and foreigners. The common people wore a tunic of some dark colour, grey or brown.

What was the ordinary costume of the Roman women?

A white woollen gown, with a coloured border; this dress reached to the feet, and had long sleeves, and was confined round the waist by a girdle. A square woollen cloak, covering the head, completed the costume when they went abroad.

CHAPTER VII.

PYRRHUS, KING OF EPIRUS, AIDS THE TARENTINES.

(B.C. 280.)

What nations first disturbed the peace of Rome after the third Samnite war?

The Gauls and Etruscans, who are supposed to have been stirred up by the inhabitants of Tarentum, in South Italy, a colony of the Grecian Sparta. Tarentum was a prosperous and commercial city, and viewed with uneasiness the rising power of Rome in the south. Even the Samnites joined the coalition in the hope of recovering their independence.

What was the immediate cause of this outbreak of war?

The Lucanians, now friends of the Samnites, besieged the town of Thurii, which was relieved by the Roman general Fabricius, who garrisoned it. In order to secure communication with Thurii by sea, the Romans steered ships into the harbour of Tarentum. The Tarentines attacked the vessels, and only five escaped. The Roman garrison in Thurii was also forced to yield to the Tarentines, and when the Senate demanded reparation for these injuries, it was refused, and war broke out immediately.

Whom did the Tarentines invite to come to their assistance?

Pyrrhus, King of Epirus, who had greatly distinguished himself in the wars carried on by the generals of Alexander the Great. He arrived in Italy B.C. 280, and took possession of Tarentum, subjecting its inhabitants to strict military discipline.

Where did the Romans meet the army of Pyrrhus and the Tarentines?

On the banks of the river Siris, near Heracleia. A great battle was fought, and the Romans were defeated, partly owing to the terror inspired by the elephants which Pyrrhus brought with him, and which had been hitherto unknown to the Romans.

What was the result of this defeat ?

Several of the Italian towns joined Pyrrhus, who had, however, suffered so considerably that he is reported to have said, 'Another such victory and I must return to Epirus.' An offer of peace was made by him to the Roman Senate, but refused, except on the condition of his retreat from Italy ; and the contest continued, Pyrrhus advancing to within twenty-four miles of Rome.

Upon whom did the burden of the war fall ?

Almost exclusively upon Pyrrhus, and at length, unwilling to hazard further the loss of his Greek forces, he accepted an invitation from the Greek colonies in Sicily to aid them in expelling the Carthaginians, who had come over from Africa and settled in the island.

Did Pyrrhus succeed in succouring the Greeks ?

No ; he was thwarted by the faithlessness and treachery of his allies, and after some time returned to Italy at the request of the Italian states, who had been made by the Romans to pay dearly for their revolt.

What was the result of this second campaign of Pyrrhus in Italy ?

He at first recovered some of the towns which had been taken by the Romans, but in a great battle near Beneventum his enfeebled army was defeated by the Consul Curius Dentatus, B.C. 275, and Pyrrhus escaped with only a few followers to Tarentum.

What was the fate of Pyrrhus ?

He returned to Epirus, and about two years

afterwards he engaged in a war with Antigonus Gonatas, one of the generals of Alexander the Great. In a conflict at Argos a woman hurled down a tile upon his head, and, as he lay on the ground stunned, a soldier cut off his head.

What was the character of Pyrrhus?

He was the greatest warrior and one of the best princes of his time ; but he was compared by Antigonus to a gambler who made many good throws with the dice, but was unable to make a proper use of the game.

What was the extent of the Roman dominions after the death of Pyrrhus?

The Romans were virtually masters of all Italy from the northern boundary of Etruria to the Straits of Sicily. The Samnites, however, were not quite subdued till after the fourth Samnite war, which terminated in its first campaign.

To what conditions were the conquered nations subject?

They might not carry on war or make treaties on their own account, but they were allowed to retain their own laws and government, only controlled by the Roman colonies, which formed a sort of governing body in the garrisoned towns.

CHAPTER VIII.

FIRST PUNIC WAR.

(B.C. 265-242.)

What was the next important war undertaken by the Romans?

The first Punic war, which was carried on against the Carthaginians, a wealthy and commercial people

of Africa, with whom the Romans had held intercourse as traders. The word 'Punic,' which takes its derivation from Phoenicia, is another name for Carthaginian.

Give some account of Carthage.

Carthage was situated on the north coast of Africa, about eleven miles from the modern Tunis. It was a colony of Tyre, and is said to have been founded about B.C. 814, by the Syrian princess Dido.

What was the political constitution of Carthage ?

It was an Oligarchy, by which is meant that the government lay almost exclusively in the hands of a few ancient and powerful families. Like Rome, it had two chief magistrates, called *Suffetes*, or judges ; and a senate, within which was a select body of 100, called *Gerusia*, whose chief office was to control the magistrates, and especially the generals returning from foreign service who might be inclined to establish a tyranny.

If the senate and Suffetes disagreed, to whom were the questions referred ?

To a general assembly of the citizens, but of this assembly very little is known. Wealth seems to have been the ruling power in Carthage.

What was the religion of the Carthaginians ?

It was the same as that of the Phoenicians, not only idolatrous, but polluted by the offering of human sacrifices.

What was the extent of the Carthaginian dominions ?

Besides possessing the great and powerful city of Carthage, the Carthaginians had subjugated the African Libyans, in whose country the colony was originally instituted ; and had established numerous settlements for commercial purposes in Sicily and *Spain*.

What is the first occasion on which we hear of intercourse between Rome and Carthage ?

In the first year of the Roman republic, B.C. 509, after the expulsion of the Tarquins, Rome and Carthage entered into a commercial treaty. The record of this treaty still remains to us. It is of great importance as throwing light upon the friendly relations then existing between the two states.

What gave rise to the jealousy which ultimately sprang up between the Romans and the Carthaginians ?

The Carthaginians viewed with suspicion the rising power of Rome in Southern Italy, whilst the Romans desired to extend their dominion over Sicily. During the war with Pyrrhus, however, the common danger induced the rival states to conclude an offensive and defensive alliance, and a Carthaginian fleet was offered for the Roman service, but declined.

What was the condition of Sicily at the time when the assistance of Pyrrhus was sought by the Greek colonists ?

It had fallen into a state of anarchy and confusion. The wildest depredations were committed by the Mamertines (their name taken from the god Mamers, or Mars), a lawless body of Campanian mercenaries, whom the Syracusan tyrant, Agathocles, had invited to help him in his struggle against the Carthaginians.

Of what Sicilian town did the Mamertines possess themselves ?

The town of Messana, now called Messina, which gives its name to the straits between Sicily and Italy. After the death of Agathocles they killed all the male inhabitants, seized their wives, children, and property, and then pillaged the country in all directions.

Who interfered to defend the cause of law and order?

Hiero, a man of distinction among the Greek inhabitants of Syracuse. He afterwards received the title of king. The Mamertines were besieged by him in Messana, and reduced to such extremities that they were obliged to seek for help—and it was to Rome that they applied.

Were the Romans ready to listen to the Mamertines?

Yes; a strong desire for warlike enterprise induced them to accede to the request, although the Mamertines were well known for their lawlessness, and the Romans, but a short time before, had severely punished a similar band within their own dominions.

Was there any real excuse for the interference of Rome?

No; peace with Hiero had already been concluded by the Mamertines, in consequence of the interposition of the Carthaginians, who had taken possession of Messana.

What steps did the Romans now take in order to get a footing in Sicily?

They assembled their fleet and army at Rhegium, and, having previously sent a message proposing to the Mamertines their deliverance from the Carthaginians, set sail for Sicily.

Where did the Roman army establish itself?

In Messana, which was betrayed to them by the Carthaginian general. On their refusal to leave Sicily, Hiero joined the Carthaginians in laying siege to Messana, and thus began the first Punic or Carthaginian war.

Did Hiero continue to support the Carthaginians?

No; after the Romans had gained several victories he withdrew to Syracuse, and the Cartha-

ginian army being for the time dispersed, Hiero became the ally of the Romans, and continued ever after faithful to them.

What was the principal disadvantage under which the Romans laboured in their conflict with the Carthaginians?

The Carthaginians, being a maritime nation, had a fleet greatly superior to that of the Romans. The Roman senators, therefore, gave orders for the construction of a new fleet, and within sixty days from the felling of the trees which were to build the ships 130 vessels were finished.

After what model were the Roman ships built?

After the model of a Carthaginian vessel which had been thrown on the Italian coast; but the material was of green timber, and they were not likely to last long. The command of the fleet was given to Duillius.

What were the newly-built ships called?

They were called quinqueremes, from two Latin words '*quinque remi*,' signifying five oars. This was in allusion to the five benches for the rowers, on each side of the vessels. The quinqueremes were furnished with sails, and were manned by 300 rowers and from 150 to 300 marines.

How did the Romans contrive to board the vessels of their enemies?

Each ship was provided with a kind of draw-bridge, which was fastened up against the mast of the vessel when sailing, and could, in the event of a battle, be thrown across to the enemy's deck and held fast by an iron grapple. The Romans, who were much better soldiers than sailors, thus obtained much of the advantage of a land fight.

How did the Romans prosper at the beginning of the campaign?

All seemed ready to yield before them. Sixty-

seven towns speedily surrendered, and but little resistance was offered by the Carthaginians.

What important town did they besiege ?

Agrigentum, which was compelled to yield after a siege of seven months. It suffered very severely under the hands of the Romans, although its garrison escaped. The modern *Girgenti* stands upon the site of Agrigentum, and magnificent remains of ancient Greek splendour may still be seen there.

What was the first naval engagement between the Carthaginians and the Romans ?

The battle of Mylæ, off the coast of Sicily, B.C. 262, in which the Romans were completely victorious.

How was this success commemorated ?

A column, adorned with the beaks of the captured vessels, was in gratitude accorded to Duillius. It was injured by lightning in the reign of Tiberius, but was afterwards repaired, and is still standing at Rome.

Did the Romans carry on the war in any place besides Sicily ?

Yes ; they attacked successfully the Carthaginian colonies in Sardinia and Corsica, and, after another great naval victory, Regulus and his colleague landed in Africa, when they ravaged the country, pillaged the houses, and destroyed the beautifully-cultivated fields and gardens in the neighbourhood of Carthage.

Did either of the two Consuls remain long in Africa ?

Yes ; Regulus carried on the war for some time, and with such success that the Carthaginians, who had gradually been driven to seek shelter within their city, sued for peace. The terms offered by *Regulus* were, however, so hard and so humiliating that the Carthaginians resolved to perish rather than to yield to them.

What means did the Carthaginians now adopt for additional strength and protection?

They availed themselves of the services of a Spartan leader named Xanthippus, who was at that time within their city. The command of the army was given to him, and he so far succeeded in the training and organisation of the Carthaginian troops that they won a great victory over the Romans, and took Regulus prisoner.

What became of the Roman army?

The small portion which remained escaped in safety to Clypea, a town in the Carthaginian territory, of which they had obtained possession.

Were the Roman forces safe in Clypea?

No; they would have been in the greatest peril, had not assistance reached them from the Roman fleet, which, after defeating the Carthaginians, took them on board and set sail for Sicily. Most of them must have perished on the voyage, for many of the ships were wrecked by a storm near the Sicilian coast.

Were the Romans discouraged by this disaster?

No; they set to work with renewed energy, and in 254 B.C. a new fleet of 220 ships was made ready and set sail for Sicily, when several towns were taken.

How was this fleet destroyed?

It was wrecked, and the Romans resolved for the future to provide only such ships as were necessary for the protection of their own coast, and for the transport of their armies into Sicily—a resolution broken not long afterwards.

What was the course of the war in Sicily?

The Carthaginians gradually lost ground, and at length, after a great defeat, they became anxious for peace, or at least for an exchange of prisoners; and Regulus, who had been in captivity nearly five years, was sent to Rome to negotiate a treaty.

What was the disinterested advice of Regulus to the Roman Senate?

He counselled them by all means to prolong the war, and the Romans, following his advice, built a new fleet, and continued operations with varying success in Sicily; but their fleet being again wrecked, the Carthaginians were left undisputed masters of the sea.

What is said to have been the fate of Regulus?

The Roman poet Nævius, who wrote an epic poem on the first Punic war, relates that the Carthaginians, enraged at the counsel given by Regulus at Rome, treated him after his return to Carthage with the utmost cruelty, cutting off his eyelids and exposing him to the glaring sun, and then leaving him to die of pain and hunger in a tub filled with spikes and serpents. But there is no good foundation for this story.

What great Carthaginian commander now arose to prosecute the war in Sicily?

Hamilcar Barca,* the father of the famous Hannibal. He took the command B.C. 247. Hamilcar was a brave and good general, who exercised more magnanimity towards the Romans than they on their part showed in dealing with their adversaries.

What brought the first Punic war to a conclusion?

A great naval victory gained by the Romans, who had a third time built and equipped their fleet. The battle was fought near the Ægatian or Goat Islands, off the west coast of Sicily. Sixty-three Carthaginian ships were taken, 120 sunk, and great loss of life inflicted. Peace was then concluded, B.C. 241.

What were the terms of the peace?

* The epithet Barca is supposed to be related to the Hebrew *Barak*, and to signify lightning.

The Carthaginians agreed to evacuate Sicily, to keep the peace with Hiero and his allies, to pay to Rome a heavy sum of money, and to restore without ransom all the Roman prisoners.

How long did the first Punic war last ?

Nearly twenty-three years. Sicily was the first conquest of Rome beyond the confines of Italy.

What provision was made for the government of Sicily ?

It was converted into a Roman province, governed by a *prætor*, or proconsul, who was annually invested with supreme civil and military power. Two *quæstors*, or treasurers, accompanied the proconsul as subordinate officers.

What amount of taxation was imposed upon the tributary provinces ?

A tithe of the produce of the soil and of the rent of the public land ; but there were certain privileged towns or localities (amongst them the little kingdom of Hiero) which, as allies of Rome, or in reward for service, were exempt from taxation.

What was the arrangement for the collection of these taxes ?

The different sources of public revenue were sold by auction, and farmed by men called publicans, who gave a definite sum to the government and then collected for themselves the taxes which were due.

To what class did the Roman publicans belong ?

They were generally of the Equestrian order. The publicans mentioned in the New Testament, who collected the taxes in Judea, were only employed as servants by the higher order of publicans.

WARS.

(B.C. 242-218.)

was the condition of Carthage after the first?

mercenary troops who had been employed in contest with the Romans, finding that the Carthaginian government was unable to pay them, rebelled B.C. 241.

urged them on?

Libyans and some of the coast colonies of Italian origin, together with some Italian cities.

So cruel a war ensued that Carthage was brought to the brink of ruin; but at the end of less than three years the struggle was concluded in favour of Hamilcar Barca, who succeeded in subduing the mercenaries.

How did the Romans obtain possession of Sardinia and Corsica about this time?

The mercenaries in Sardinia also revolted, and sought protection from the Romans, who seized the pretext for occupying the island and taking possession of Corsica. The Carthaginians demanded the return of the mercenaries, but were too weak to do so.

What was the effect of their successes?

The assistance given to Greece gained for Rome a political influence in the affairs of that country, and the defeat of the barbarians caused the Roman supremacy to be acknowledged over the wide plains of Gallia Cisalpina—or Gaul, on this side the Alps—the country now known as Lombardy.

By what means did the Carthaginians seek to retrieve their fortune?

Acting upon the advice of Hamilcar Barca, they made every exertion to extend their empire in Spain, where Greek and Phœnician colonies had been already formed. Hamilcar endeavoured to establish friendly relations with the native Iberians and Kelts. New Carthage (Carthagena) was founded about this time.

What was the fate of Hamilcar Barca, and who succeeded him as a general?

He was slain in a battle with the Spanish natives. His son-in-law, Hasdrubal, succeeded to his command in Spain.

How did the Romans acknowledge the now growing power of the Carthaginians?

They concluded with Hasdrubal a treaty which provided that the Carthaginian conquests should not be extended beyond the river Iberus (Ebro).

How did Hasdrubal die?

After carrying out the plans of his father-in-law for about eight years, he was assassinated by a slave, and the command in Spain devolved on Hannibal, the son of Hamilcar Barca, one of the greatest generals that the world has ever seen.

What is known of Hannibal's childhood?

He accompanied his father to Spain at nine years old, and was brought up among all the hardships of the camp. It is said that before leaving Carthage Hamilcar Barca took his little son to one of the

heathen temples, and made him swear upon the altar that as long as he lived he would be the constant enemy of Rome, an oath which Hannibal never forgot.

CHAPTER X.

SECOND PUNIC WAR.

(B.C. 218.)

Under what circumstances did the second Punic war begin?

Hannibal continued the conquests in Spain as far as the Iberus, and on some slight pretext laid siege to the town of Saguntum (Murviedro), which is said to have been in alliance with Rome. The Romans, regarding this act as a violation of the treaty between the two nations, demanded the surrender of Hannibal, which being refused by the Carthaginian senate, war was declared.

What was the fate of Saguntum?

After a siege of about eight months, endured with the utmost heroism, the town was taken. The inhabitants were either buried in the ruins or fell victims to the sword and fire of the enemy.

What arrangements did Hannibal make for the great struggle which was now before him?

He gave to his brother Hasdrubal the command of the troops which were to carry on the war in Spain, and proceeded himself to attack the Romans in their own land, B.C. 218.

With what forces did Hannibal prepare to carry out his purpose?

With 90,000 foot, 12,000 horse, and 37 elephants. *This force was subsequently much reduced, for*

before passing over the Pyrenees permission was given for the retreat of all who were unwilling to confront the difficulties of the expedition to Italy.

What was the first great obstacle to the progress of the Carthaginian army?

The opposition of a considerable body of Gauls, who contested the passage of the river Rhone; but this was only a preliminary to the much greater dangers to be encountered in crossing the Alps.

By what Alpine pass did Hannibal enter Italy?

It is not absolutely known, but it is said to have been the pass of the Little St. Bernard; the same which was chosen by Napoleon Bonaparte for his memorable descent into Italy about 2,000 years later.

How long did Hannibal take to cross the Alps?

At the end of fifteen days of the severest hardships the Carthaginian army reached the Italian side of the great Alpine chain, but only 20,000 foot and 6,000 horse remained out of the 50,000 foot and 9,000 horse who had crossed the Pyrenees.

What allies did the Carthaginians find ready to receive them?

The Cisalpine Gauls, who, still smarting under the recent conquests of the Romans, gladly welcomed Hannibal and sought for his protection.

What steps were taken by the Romans to prevent the invasion of the Carthaginians?

An army, accompanied by a fleet, was despatched to Transalpine Gaul, but both arrived too late to put a stop to Hannibal's passage of the Rhone; and the Roman commander, Publius Cornelius Scipio, then withdrew to Italy, and on the banks of the Ticinus (Ticino), in the plains of Lombardy, awaited the coming of the invaders.

What two engagements speedily ensued?

The battles of the Ticinus and the Trebia, B.C.

218, which took place at no great distance from the town of Mediolanum, the modern Milan. In both encounters the Romans were signally defeated.

What mountain barrier still interposed to check the entrance of the Carthaginians into the southern Italian districts?

The Apennines, which still lay between them and Rome. After spending the winter in Lombardy, Hannibal, though with great difficulty, crossed this second mountain chain and descended into Etruria.

Did the Romans now attempt to stop his advance?

Yes; he was encountered by the Consul Flaminius on the banks of the Lake of Trasimenus. A great battle was fought B.C. 217, in which the Romans were completely routed. The Consul and 15,000 of his men were slain, and Hannibal made his way into the south.

How were the tidings of the defeat at Lake Trasimenus received at Rome?

With a dismay which, though it called for general mourning, aroused the Romans to undertake the most energetic measures of defence. Quintus Fabius Maximus was appointed Dictator.

What was the leading characteristic of Fabius?

Excessive caution, which gave occasion to his surname of *Cunctator*, or The Slack. Though used originally in contempt, it was afterwards acknowledged as an honourable distinction, receiving the addition of 'The Shield of Rome.' Without venturing upon any great engagement, Fabius followed the Carthaginian army from hill to hill, harassing its movements upon every occasion.

What was the consequence of this prolonged inaction?

The Romans, impatient of delay, elected two *Consuls*, who advanced with a large army into *Apulia* and met the Carthaginians near the little

town of Cannæ, B.C. 216. Here the Romans met with another most disastrous defeat.

How did the Italians of the district act on perceiving the success of Hannibal?

Many of them joined him, and Capua, one of the wealthiest cities of Italy, having opened her gates, was chosen by him for his winter quarters, A.D. 216.

Why did not Hannibal at once continue his march on Rome?

He had no artillery, his troops were fatigued, and he was anxious to make an alliance with the Latins before undertaking an attack upon the city.

CHAPTER XI.

SECOND PUNIC WAR—(continued).

(B.C. 216–201.)

Did Hannibal's career continue prosperous after the winter spent in Capua?

No: it has been said that his soldiers, enervated by luxury, and corrupted by the vices of the Capuans, lost their former hardihood; and that the Romans began from this time to retrieve their shattered fortunes.

Were the Romans able now to concentrate their whole attention upon the struggle in Italy?

No; on the death of Hiero, King of Syracuse, which took place B.C. 214, the Syracusans entered into an alliance with Hannibal, and the Romans in consequence sent an army to besiege Syracuse. The city was taken after two years, and the whole island speedily fell under the power of Rome.

What celebrated mathematician exerted himself in the defence of Syracuse?

Archimedes, the friend and kinsman of King Hiero, who by his mechanical skill considerably prolonged the siege. He is said to have constructed levers by means of which the Roman ships were raised and thrown into the air. He also invented burning glasses to set fire to the vessels when beyond the reach of the levers. The Romans thus opposed found it impossible to storm the city, but they at last succeeded in taking it by treachery.

What caused the death of Archimedes?

While pursuing his studies he was killed by a common soldier who did not know his name. He was buried at Syracuse, and a monument was erected by the Roman general, Marcellus, over his grave.

How was Hannibal employed in the year following his winter spent in Capua?

In B.C. 215, having received reinforcements from Carthage, he carried on the war in Apulia and Campania; but Fabius and Marcellus, the Roman generals surnamed the Shield and the Sword of Rome, exhausted the strength of his army; and having offered sacrifice to the powers of evil at Lake Avernus, Hannibal marched against Tarentum, but failed at that time to take it. The city was, however, afterwards betrayed into his hands.

Did Capua remain in the hands of Hannibal?

No; it was besieged by the Romans in B.C. 212, and fell after a long resistance.

Was any attack made upon the city of Rome?

During the siege of Capua, Hannibal, anxious to cause a diversion of the Roman arms, advanced upon Rome, but he was not powerful enough to make an assault upon it, though it is said that he hurled a javelin against it in defiance.

On what source of help did Hannibal now build his hopes ?

On the arrival of reinforcements from Spain, under the command of his brother Hasdrubal, whom he had left to prosecute the war in that country ; but it was not until B.C. 207 that Hasdrubal was able to cross the Alps.

What was the cause of this long delay ?

The contest which the Romans carried on in Spain, with the express view of preventing reinforcements being sent to Hannibal. Publius and Cneius Scipio, the two Roman generals, were at length defeated and slain, and Hasdrubal was preparing to join his brother in Italy when the young Publius Cornelius Scipio, afterwards famous under the name of Africanus, successfully renewed the struggle.

Did Hasdrubal succeed in accomplishing the meeting with Hannibal ?

No ; his army was intercepted after he had crossed the Alps, and defeated by the Consul Claudius Nero. He himself was slain, and his head was thrown into Hannibal's camp, and thus brought to the great Carthaginian general the tidings of the failure of his last remaining hope.

Was the war continued after this disaster ?

Yes ; Hannibal, with the utmost bravery and steadfastness, maintained for some years a defensive position in the south of Italy. But in 202 B.C. he was hastily recalled to Carthage.

What emergency was the immediate cause of this recall ?

After the descent of Hasdrubal into Italy the young Cornelius Scipio, having been elected Consul for the year B.C. 205, obtained permission to cross over to Africa, and carry on the war in that country by the aid of an army of volunteers.

Had the Romans any allies in Africa ?

Yes ; Masinissa, king of the Eastern Numidians, was on their side, whilst Syphax, king of the Western Numidians, espoused the cause of the Carthaginians.

What circumstances had occasioned the enmity of these two chiefs ?

Territorial disputes had been the source of many quarrels between them, but the great cause of mutual hatred was the rivalry excited on account of Sophonisba, the beautiful daughter of Hannibal Gisco, a Carthaginian of high rank.

What had been the history of Sophonisba ?

Sophonisba had been early betrothed to Masinissa, but she was afterwards compelled by her father to become the wife of Syphax, and from that time Masinissa sided with the Romans, and became the enemy of Syphax.

What misfortune befell Sophonisba ?

In the course of the war Masinissa took Cirta, the capital of the territory which belonged to Syphax, and Sophonisba fell into his hands. Fascinated by her beauty, and wishing to protect her from the Romans, whose captive she virtually was, he married her. Scipio, however, was inexorable in his demand that Sophonisba should be given up to him, and by the counsel of Masinissa Sophonisba took poison, as the only means of saving herself from being made the prisoner of the Roman general.

Were any efforts for peace made by Rome and Carthage after the landing of Scipio in Africa ?

Yes ; Scipio and Hannibal, two of the greatest generals that ever lived, met in the hope of arranging satisfactory terms ; but the Carthaginians, trusting in their commander, were anxious to carry *the struggle*, and nothing was agreed upon.

What battle followed this meeting ?

The battle of Zama,* B.C. 202, in which the Romans were triumphantly victorious. Hannibal escaped with a few followers, and the Carthaginians were obliged to yield to Rome.

What were the conditions of the peace which terminated the second Punic war ?

The Carthaginians were compelled to give up their fleet, ten ships only excepted ; to restore the Roman prisoners without ransom ; to pay a large sum of money to the Romans, and to pledge themselves to enter into no foreign war without the consent of the Roman people. They had also to acknowledge Masinissa as king of a great part of Numidia which had belonged to Syphax, and to pay to him a heavy war indemnity. The Carthaginian possessions in Spain, and in the islands of the Mediterranean, were all now the property of Rome. The treaty was concluded B.C. 201.

CHAPTER XII.

WARS WITH SYRIA AND MACEDON.

(B.C. 202-149.)

How was Scipio rewarded on his return to Rome ?

He was honoured with a splendid triumph, and was henceforward surnamed Africanus.

In what way did Hannibal still endeavour to serve his country ?

By wise and careful political administration, but a strong party at Carthage opposed him, and denounced him to the Romans as urging on Antiochus.

* Zama was about seventy-five miles from Carthage.

(surnamed the Great), the third King of Syria, to make war on Rome.

Was Hannibal able to withstand his enemies?

No; he was obliged to flee from Carthage, B.C. 193, and he then took refuge with the King of Syria, who was one of the most powerful princes of his time, ruling from the Dardanelles, or Hellespont, to India.

What important war was carried on by Rome at the same time as the second Punic war?

The first Macedonian war. It broke out soon after the defeat of the Romans at Cannæ, when Philip V. of Macedon, tenth successor of Alexander the Great, entered into an alliance with Hannibal. The Romans and the Carthaginians were unable themselves to take any active part in this war, which was conducted principally by their allies.

What part was taken by the several states who engaged in the first Macedonian war?

The Greeks, Rhodians, Egyptians, with Attalus, King of Pergamus, sided with the Romans; whilst the Macedonians, Acarnanians, Antiochus, King of Syria, and Philip, King of Macedon, took part with the Carthaginians.

When was peace concluded?

In the year B.C. 205, without any great advantage gained on either side, Rome being anxious to concentrate all her strength against Hannibal in Italy.

When were hostilities again renewed?

In B.C. 200, when Philip V. besieged Athens. The Romans, professing to assist the Greeks, sent an army under Quintus Flaminius into Thessaly, and gained a complete victory over Philip at Cynoscephalæ, B.C. 197, restoring the Greek towns to independence, and forcing from Philip mortifying terms of peace.

Had Hannibal any opportunity of continuing his

animosity against the Romans while taking refuge at the court of Antiochus ?

Yes ; the Greek tribes who had been released by Rome from the dominion of Philip of Macedon, rebelled against the tyranny of their liberators, and persuaded Antiochus to join with them in making war against the Romans. Hannibal supported the scheme, advising an alliance with Philip of Macedon, and an immediate attack on Italy.

Did Antiochus follow the advice of Hannibal ?

No ; the Syrian army wasted time in Greece, and disregarded the alliance with Philip. The Romans, meanwhile, marched into Thessaly, defeated the Syrians and their allies the Ætolians, and then crossed over into Asia, and pursued the war in Syria.

To whom did the Romans entrust this expedition ?

To Lucius Cornelius Scipio, afterwards surnamed Asiaticus. His brother, Scipio Africanus, voluntarily accompanied him, the Roman Senate having too little confidence in Scipio Asiaticus to confide the conduct of the campaign to him without his brother's aid.

Where was the first great battle fought in Syria ?

Near Magnesia, at the foot of Mount Sipylus, B.C. 190. The Romans were victorious, and Antiochus was forced to renounce all his dominions in Asia, west of Mount Taurus, and give up his fleet ; he was also called upon to pay a considerable sum of money, and to deliver up Hannibal into the hands of his enemies.

Was this last demand complied with ?

No ; Hannibal escaped to Prusias, King of Bithynia, but there also the enmity of the Romans followed him, and finding himself unable to elude their pursuit, he took poison and died, B.C. 183.

What was the fate of Hannibal's conqueror, Scipio Africanus?

His overbearing disposition had made him many enemies, and a charge of embezzlement was raised against him by the Tribune Nævius. On the day of the trial, Africanus proudly reminded the people that this was the anniversary of the battle of Zama, and called upon them to follow him to the Capitol and return thanks to the gods for the victory. The appeal was enthusiastically obeyed, and the accusation in consequence withdrawn. But Scipio's trust in his fellow-citizens was gone, and immediately afterwards he went into voluntary exile, declaring that his ungrateful country should not even possess his bones. He died about the same time as Hannibal.

What hostilities disturbed the peace of Northern Italy while the Romans were occupied in Asia?

The conquered tribes rose in rebellion against Rome, and carried on a contest for nearly twenty years, but were at length compelled to submit.

What side did Philip of Macedon take in the war between the Romans and Antiochus?

He sided with the Romans, but in heart he hated them; and this hatred descended to his illegitimate son and successor, Perseus, who hastened, on his accession, to prepare for war against them.

What was the result of the war between Perseus and the Romans?

Perseus was defeated by Æmilius Paulus at Pydna, B.C. 168, and led captive to Rome. His kingdom was then divided into four republican districts, tributary to the Romans. Some smaller states who had supported Perseus, more especially the Achæans and the Rhodians, suffered much at this time from the anger of Rome.

CHAPTER XIII.

THIRD PUNIC WAR.

(B.C. 149.)

How long did Rome and Carthage keep the peace which had been concluded after the second Punic war?

For fifty years. During this time Carthage so far recovered its prosperity, that it became again the constant object of jealousy to Rome ; and the Censor Cato especially lost no opportunity of urging its destruction, ending every speech he made in the Senate with the words, '*Delenda est Carthago*,' or, 'Carthage must be destroyed.'

Upon what excuse did the Romans at length break the peace?

On the pretext of supporting their ally Masinissa, King of Numidia, who had involved himself in a quarrel with Carthage. With this view they sent an army into Sicily which might be ready to proceed to Africa without delay if necessary.

Did the Carthaginians take any notice of this act?

Yes ; they required an explanation of it, and the reply of the Roman Senate was a demand that 300 hostages should be sent to Rome, and that the Carthaginians should surrender their arms.

How were these demands received?

They were complied with ; but when the Romans insisted further that Carthage should be rased to the ground, and a new city built at ten miles distance from the sea, the Carthaginians determined to defend themselves with desperate resistance.

By what means did they endeavour to supply their deficiency of arms?

Captives were set free, and their chains worked into armour. Public and private houses were stripped of all the metal that could be spared, even statues, vases, and ornaments being broken up. Great stones were carried up to the roofs of the houses, from thence to be hurled down upon the enemy ; and it is said that the women gave their hair for bow-strings.

Who was general of the Carthaginian army of defence ?

The command was given to Hasdrubal, an officer who had been for some time in banishment. He was not a man of exalted character, and though he was energetic in the defence of the besieged city, his tyranny added greatly to the sufferings of the inhabitants.

How long did the siege of Carthage last ?

Three years. At the end of that time, the Romans, having nearly reduced the city by famine, scaled the walls, and one of the most cruel and desperate struggles that the world has ever seen ensued.

How was Carthage at last destroyed ?

A hand-to-hand encounter continued for six days, and the houses being then set on fire, a conflagration raged for seventeen days, leaving the once beautiful city a smouldering mass of ruins. By a decree of the Roman Senate, a curse was pronounced upon any person who should rebuild it.

What was the name of the Roman General who took Carthage ?

Cornelius Scipio Æmilianus, who, according to the Roman custom, had been adopted into the family of Scipio Africanus. In commemoration of his achievements in Africa he was also called Africanus, but the name is best known as applied to *the first Scipio*.

What Roman historian was with Scipio Æmilianus when Carthage was taken?

Polybius, to whom it is said that Scipio spoke with tears in his eyes when he watched the burning city—saying, ‘This may hereafter be the fate of Rome.’

How was the Carthaginian territory henceforward governed?

Carthage, like Greece, Thessaly, and Macedonia, was governed by a Proconsul sent from Rome.

CHAPTER XIV.

GREECE MADE A ROMAN PROVINCE.

(B.C. 146.)

What position did the Romans now hold with regard to the affairs of Greece?

Having rescued the Greek States from the power of Philip of Macedon, they themselves stepped into Philip's place, so that Greece had made but an exchange of masters.

What measures did the Greeks take for self-defence?

They banded themselves into leagues for political and defensive purposes—of these the Ætolian and the Achæan leagues were the most important.

Under what circumstances did war break out between Rome and Greece?

About 148 B.C. the Romans, as supreme lords of Greece, interfered with the Achæan league by demanding the dismissal from it of Sparta and some other towns. This was a signal for an outbreak of hostilities.

What was the final result of the struggle between Greece and Rome ?

The Consul Mummius totally defeated the army of the Achæan league at the Isthmus of Corinth, and entered the city of Corinth without opposition. The inhabitants were treated with the utmost cruelty, being either put to the sword or sold as slaves ; and the beautiful works of art which had adorned the city were either destroyed or transferred to Rome. Greece was now converted into a Roman province under the name of Achaia, B.C. 146.

Was Corinth ever rebuilt ?

Corinth and Carthage, which were destroyed in the same year, were rebuilt about the same time under Julius Cæsar and his nephew, Augustus. We know from the book of the Acts of the Apostles and from the two epistles of St. Paul to the Corinthians the importance which the latter city afterwards regained. Its site is now marked by seven ruined columns.

What great change in the manners and customs of the Romans resulted from the continued intercourse with Greece ?

The Romans respected and admired the art and intellect of Athens, and in many ways endeavoured to imitate the greater elegance and refinement of the Greeks. They learnt to delight in the ornamentation of their houses and in giving splendid entertainments, and the dress of the Roman ladies became so extravagant that an attempt was made to restrain it by legislation.

Did the religion of the Romans become more pure as their civilisation increased ?

No ; their religion and many of their customs were still very barbarous. Human sacrifices were occasionally offered ; and in the public entertain-

ments by which the wealthy sought to win popularity, the fights of gladiators, or public prize-fighters, were a favourite exhibition. These fights frequently resulted in the death of one of the combatants.

Who tried at this time to stem the tide of Greek influence in Rome?

Marcus Porcius Cato, proverbially known as Cato the Censor. He remonstrated continually against the growing luxury and extravagance of his countrymen, and in B.C. 155 he obtained a decree for the dismissal of three of the chief Greek philosophers who held their schools in the city. He endeavoured also to cultivate a taste for agriculture and for historical research, and by his influence the Bacchanalia, or festivals of Bacchus, the god of wine, were prohibited.

What celebrated writers lived about this time?

The comic poet Plautus, and Polybius the historian.

What was the internal state of Rome now that her dominion was extending nearly all along the coasts of the Mediterranean?

Far from sound. The wealth of the State had, indeed, greatly increased from the conquests of Carthage, Syria, and Macedonia, and the vast public works which were undertaken spoke for the energy of the nation; yet tokens of decay already showed themselves.

What were the chief signs of this decay?

The old distinctions between Patricians and Plebeians had been replaced by a jealousy between the rich and poor; and there was much distress among the slaves, who had been imported in large numbers from the conquered countries; whilst their employment by the wealthy citizens stood in the way of the labour of the free population.

What was the condition of the Roman subjects in the colonies ?

They often suffered cruelly under the oppression of the Roman governors, and of the publicans, whose interest it was, as farmers of the taxes, to extort the utmost from the tributary provinces. The injustice practised upon this account was a frequent incentive to insurrection.

What is the first recorded instance of rebellion against a Roman governor ?

A rising in Lusitania (the modern Portugal), where the rebels defeated the Roman governor, Servius Sulpicius Galba.

How did Galba avenge this defeat ?

By slaying an unarmed assembly B.C. 150. This roused the indignation of the brave shepherd-soldier Viriatus, who rallied round him many of his countrymen, and defied the Romans for eight years, but was at length treacherously murdered in his tent.

Did any other tribe follow the example of the Lusitanians ?

Yes ; the Celtiberians in Spain rebelled, and their city Numantia, situated on a height above the river Durus (Douro), heroically withstood a five years' siege. The Roman general was reduced in this war to such extremities that he was obliged to make disadvantageous terms of peace, which the Senate refused to ratify.

What well-known general received orders to prosecute the war in Spain ?

Cornelius Scipio Æmilianus, the conqueror of Carthage, who carried on the siege of Numantia for another year.

What was the fate of the Numantians ?

The severest sufferings were bravely endured by them, the famine being so great that men were re-

duced to eat the dead bodies of their fellow-citizens. At length the city surrendered, B.C. 133, but before the gates were opened husbands and fathers slew their wives and children rather than see them fall into the hands of their conquerors. The greater part of the peninsula was now reduced to the condition of a Roman province.

What cause for disquietude arose about this time in Sicily?

The slave population, which here as well as at Rome suffered very cruelly, rose in rebellion, under Eunus, one of their own body. For two years a devastating civil war was carried on.

What kingdom was by will bequeathed to Rome at this period?

The kingdom of Pergamus, in Asia Minor, by the will of Attalus, a weak monarch, who in thus disposing of his dominions is supposed to have obeyed a Roman mandate.

Was any resistance made to the execution of this bequest?

Yes; the succession was claimed by Attalus, and a war ensued, which however ended in the victory of the Romans, who took possession of the greater part of Pergamus, and made it a Roman province under the title of Asia, 130 B.C.

CHAPTER XV.

THE GRACCHI.

(B.C. 133-121.)

What distinguished persons exerted themselves at this period for the benefit of the poorer portion of the Roman population?

Tiberius and Caius Gracchus, generally known in history as the Gracchi. They were the sons of Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus, gratefully remembered for his leniency and moderation in Spain, and of Cornelia, the daughter of the great Scipio Africanus.

What were the chief public grievances which the Gracchi strove to lessen?

The poverty and enforced idleness of the lowest classes, arising chiefly from the fact that the public lands and the political power of Rome were concentrated in the hands of the rich, whilst there was scarcely any middle class that could unite both orders. The measures taken by the Gracchi were framed with a view to some alleviation of these evils.

Which of the brothers first protested against the injustice under which the poor were labouring?

Tiberius, the elder of the two. He offered himself as Tribune for the people, 133 B.C., and being elected, tried to reinforce the provisions of the Licinian law, which forbade any citizen to occupy more than a certain portion of the public lands. This law had long been disregarded.

What serious opposition threatened to be an obstacle to his success?

The rich Romans, headed by Scipio Nasica, one of the especial enemies of Tiberius, persuaded the other Tribune, Octavius, to declare against the reform. Tiberius contrived, however, that Octavius should be deposed from office, and the Licinian law was re-enacted.

What other measure did Tiberius suggest for the relief of the suffering poor?

He proposed the division among them of the recently bequeathed treasures of Attalus. By this suggestion, and by his former exertions for the

good of his countrymen, Tiberius brought upon himself such odium that his life was considered in danger—his only safety being the sacredness of the office of Tribune which he held.

What accusations did his enemies bring against him?

They declared that the deposition of Octavius from the Tribunate had been unconstitutional, and they charged Tiberius with seeking popularity and aspiring to the kingdom.

Was Tiberius able to withstand these unjust accusations?

No; the jealousy against him rose at length to such a pitch that his application to be re-elected Tribune produced a tumult in the senate which ended in open violence. Whilst attempting to escape, Tiberius Gracchus was slain, and his body cast into the Tiber, 132 B.C.

Was this triumph of the senators a lasting one?

No; the spirit which had been aroused could not be put down. The Tribunes of the people continued to work in various ways for the relief of the oppressed, and some years after the murder of Tiberius Gracchus, his brother Caius offered himself for the Tribunate, 123 B.C., and threw himself zealously into the cause for which Tiberius had perished.

What were the reforms attempted by Caius Gracchus?

They were far more extensive than his brother's, and included a change in the constitution of the court which tried political offences, the rightful administration of justice, the distribution of corn to the poor at a low fixed price, and the grant to the conquered Italian tribes of the privileges belonging to a Roman citizen. Caius succeeded in establishing the new court, which consisted of rich citizens and

deputies instead of senators. In order to give employment to the poor he made new roads in all directions, repaired the old ones, and set up mile-stones along them at the distance of 1,000 paces—the word mile being derived from *mille*, a thousand.

How did the optimates or richer citizens seek to oppose Caius Gracchus?

They enlisted Livius Drusus, another of the Tribunes, on their side, and succeeded in raising a distrust of Gracchus and frustrating his re-election for a third year of the Tribunate.

How were the Gracchi judged by their contemporaries?

The patriotic conduct of the Gracchi, which has won the praise of later ages, was stigmatised by Roman statesmen as ‘sedition.’ A dictator, Lucius Opimius, was raised up to defend the government in their supposed emergency, the streets of Rome became the scene of bloodshed, and many of the followers of Caius Gracchus were slain.

What was the fate of Caius?

Caius himself escaped across the Tiber, but knowing that his life must be sacrificed, he was put to death at his own request by the faithful slave who had fled with him, 121 B.C.

CHAPTER XVI.

WAR WITH JUGURTHA, KING OF NUMIDIA.

(B.C. 111.)

What was the next event of importance after the death of Caius Gracchus?

The war with Jugurtha, King of Numidia, which was first declared in 111 B.C. Jugurtha was the

grandson of Masinissa, famous in the Third Punic War.

What was the origin of this war ?

Micipsa, the son and successor of Masinissa, had left the kingdom to his two sons, Hiempsal and Adherbal, and to his adopted son Jugurtha. All three were to reign jointly, but Jugurtha, who was of a cruel and unscrupulous disposition, though clever and handsome and very popular with the Numidians, desired to reign alone. He therefore caused Hiempsal to be murdered ; and Adherbal, fearing the same fate, applied for protection to Rome.

Did the righteous cause of Adherbal meet with support ?

No ; the Romans were so open to bribery, that they were easily persuaded by Jugurtha to make a compromise ; and it was adjudged that the kingdom should be divided between Jugurtha and Adherbal, the best share being awarded to Jugurtha.

Did this decision put an end to the dispute ?

No ; emboldened by success, Jugurtha proceeded to make war upon Adherbal, besieging him in Cirta, which was his capital. The inhabitants of Cirta, trusting to the promises of Jugurtha, induced Adherbal to give up the city ; but Jugurtha, breaking his faith, slew many of the inhabitants, and put Adherbal to a cruel death.

Was any protest made against the connivance of the senate in the crimes of Jugurtha ?

Yes ; the Plebeian Consul Memmius raised his voice indignantly against it, and through his influence an army was sent to Africa, 111 B.C., to make war upon Jugurtha. The African prince bribed the Roman generals to grant him a favour-

able peace ; but this action created the greatest indignation at Rome, and the senate summoned Jugurtha to appear before them to answer for his conduct.

What fresh crime did Jugurtha commit while at Rome ?

He caused the murder of Massiva, the grandson of Masinissa, who was living in the city. The author of the crime being well known, Jugurtha and Bomilcar, the general through whose instrumentality it had been committed, were forced to flee from Rome.

What was the consequence of this crime ?

The renewal of the war in 109 B.C.

To whom was the command of the Roman army then given ?

To Cæcilius Metellus, a man respected for his energy and honour, but of an indomitable pride which brought him into many difficulties.

Towards whom did this haughty disposition especially show itself in the campaign in Africa ?

Towards Caius Marius, one of his lieutenants ; a man of great talent and unbounded ambition, who had risen from the position of a common soldier to be one of the most influential men in Rome. Metellus openly scorned Marius on account of his low birth, and though they were successful together in the war against Jugurtha, they mutually insulted one another.

How did Marius revenge himself upon Metellus ?

By causing the recall of Metellus from the command in Africa. This was done 107 B.C., when Marius, having been chosen Consul, was able to carry out his own measures. The command in Africa was then bestowed upon himself.

Whom did Marius associate with himself as one of his chief officers ?

Cornelius Sulla, a man of genius and of noble birth, but as selfish and ambitious as Marius himself, and perhaps even more unscrupulous.

How did Jugurtha seek to strengthen himself against Rome?

Little able to depend upon his generals, two of whom had already yielded to Rome, he enlisted on his side his father-in-law, Bocchus, King of Mauritania; and at last, when the Romans were fast gaining ground upon him, he took refuge in the dominions of Bocchus.

Was Bocchus true to the cause of Jugurtha?

No; the Mauritanian prince was weak and selfish, and finding it to his own advantage to make terms with the Romans, he treacherously caused Jugurtha to be delivered into their hands.

How did the Romans treat their prisoner?

He was led in chains before his conqueror in the splendid triumph which was granted to Marius on his return to Rome, and being then thrust into the dungeon of the Mamertine prison, he was starved to death.

CHAPTER XVII.

INVASION OF THE TEUTONS AND KYMBRI.

(B.C. 102.)

What barbarian invasion threatened Italy soon after the close of the Jugurthine War?

An invasion of the Kymbri, a barbarous Keltic horde, said to have migrated westwards from Asia to the eastern parts of Europe. A formidable multitude having reached Noricum (Austria), was there joined by an equal force of Teutons or Ger-

mans, and afterwards by some of the Helvetians or Swiss. The united host, containing, it is said, 300,000 fighting men, invaded Gaul, which suffered severely from their ravages.

What course did Rome pursue in this emergency ?

Though the Romans sent several armies to assist the Gauls, it seemed impossible to stop the progress of the barbarians. The Teutons and Kymbri forced their way onwards ; and the Romans in alarm appointed Marius to repel them.

When did Marius first encounter the barbarians ?

He met the Teutons at Acquæ Sextiæ (or Aix), in Transalpine Gaul. This was in 102 B.C. ; and the year following, having joined his colleague, Lutatius Catulus, he nearly annihilated the Kymbri, near Mediolanum (the modern Milan). A few only escaped, and are believed to have settled on the banks of the Meuse.

How was Marius rewarded for this second succour of his countrymen ?

He was made for the sixth time Consul, and was called the Saviour of Rome.

What side did Marius take in Roman politics ?

The democratic side, as was naturally to be expected from his low origin. In the war with Jugurtha he trained as soldiers in his army numbers of the poor among his countrymen, and even many freedmen.

By whom was Marius supported ?

By one of the Tribunes, who proposed that the lands recently conquered should be divided among the veterans of the army.

Who was the leader of the aristocratic party ?

Cornelius Sulla, who had been the rival of Marius in Africa, and who lost no opportunity of *claiming for himself the honours due to Marius in the Numidian war.*

Had the exertions of the Gracchi produced any lasting influence for good among their countrymen?

But little. The lower orders still continued in extreme poverty, while the concentration of power in the hands of the wealthy gave them small means of redress under oppression. The change of the tribunal for the trial of political offences had been of little real avail, and the Latins and other Italian tribes clamoured loudly for the franchise.

Who undertook to mediate in this grave emergency?

The Tribune Livius Drusus, who proposed to establish colonies for the relief of the poor and to enforce the agrarian law. Drusus demanded also the franchise for the Italian States, but before this measure for the franchise could be carried out, he was murdered at the instigation of the party opposed to him.

CHAPTER XVIII.

SOCIAL OR MARSIC WAR.

(B.C. 90-88.)

What was the consequence of the murder of Drusus?

It was a signal for the bursting out of the Social or Marsic war; for the Italian States, who had centred all their hopes on Drusus, were now driven to desperation. This war devastated Italy for four years.

Did any of the Italian tribes continue the allies of Rome?

The Latins, with the Etruscans and the Umbrians, remained faithful. The franchise was at once conferred upon the Latins, and the privilege

of citizenship was extended to the Umbrians and Etruscans in 88 B.C.

What induced the Romans to offer terms of peace at last to the rebellious Italians?

A war with Mithridates VI., King of Pontus, was impending; and in the hope of securing peace in Italy, the Romans offered the franchise to all who would lay down their arms.

Were these terms accepted by the allies?

Yes, by the greater number of the tribes; but the Samnites remained in rebellion. The newly enfranchised were not, however, wholly satisfied, for their privileges were still inferior to those of the older citizens.

What was the cause of quarrel between Mithridates VI. and Rome?

During the minority of Mithridates, who came to the throne at eleven years of age, the Romans had deprived him of the district of Phrygia, a portion of his inheritance. The young king, being possessed of great talent and energy, lost no opportunity of strengthening himself with a view to future vengeance; and when the Romans interfered in support of the King of Cappadocia and Bithynia, whom Mithridates had defeated and dethroned, he declared war against them, 88 B.C.

Which was the successful side at the beginning of this war?

That of Mithridates, who carried all before him. The people of Asia Minor renounced their subjection to Rome and joined him, and he then sent his generals to Greece, where they enlisted the people in his cause; Athens and Thebes, trusting that he would deliver them from the yoke of Rome, being among the first to open their gates to his forces.

Whom did the Romans at this juncture appoint to prosecute the war against the hosts of Mithridates?

Sulla, who was still fighting with the rebellious Samnites.

What was the result of this appointment ?

The jealousy between Marius and Sulla was brought to its height ; and by the contrivance of Marius, the command given to Sulla was annulled and transferred to himself.

How did Marius attempt to carry out this appointment ?

He sent two military Tribunes to take the command of Sulla's troops which were stationed at Nola. Sulla refused to surrender the command, and, hastening with his army to Rome, carried all before him.

Was Marius allowed to remain at Rome ?

No, he was outlawed ; and escaping from Rome with much difficulty, sailed from Minturnæ, a town upon the coast between Rome and Naples, and took refuge in the district of the ruined city of Carthage.

Did Sulla proceed at once to prosecute the war in Greece ?

No, he delayed until order was re-established in Italy ; and two Consuls were appointed, one of whom, Cornelius Cinna, was a member of the democratic party, and a friend of Marius. He then repaired to the scene of war.

How was Sulla received in Greece ?

Many of the Greeks laid down their arms at once ; but Athens endured a cruel siege of nearly two years, which ended in the capture and almost entire ruin of the city.

What steps were now taken by Mithridates to obtain peace ?

Finding his general, Archelaus, unable to hold his ground in Europe, and having suffered severely himself in Asia, he arranged an interview with

Sulla in 84 B.C., when the terms of peace were agreed upon.

What were these terms?

Mithridates consented to deliver up his fleet, to pay all the expenses of the war, and to confine his dominions to the kingdom of Pontus. Heavy fines were also imposed upon the provinces of Asia which had revolted and joined Mithridates, and the people in consequence underwent great hardships.

CHAPTER XIX.

SULLA DICTATOR.

(B.C. 81.)

What was the course of public affairs at Rome while Sulla was arranging terms of peace in Asia?

The democratic measures and overbearing conduct of Cinna, which had shown themselves immediately on the departure of Sulla, roused the indignation of the aristocratic party, who succeeded in depriving Cinna of the Consulship, and forcing him to leave the city.

To whom did Cinna apply for assistance?

Cinna, being determined to recover his authority by force of arms, invited Marius to return from Africa and join him, and having collected a formidable army of malcontents and savage soldiers, they marched together upon Rome, which was soon forced to surrender.

What followed upon the entrance of Marius and Cinna into Rome?

A terrible scene of bloodshed. Numbers of the aristocracy were slain, and their possessions *destroyed and plundered*. Marius compelled the *people to elect him Consul for the seventh time,*

and, in the few days during which his power lasted, took a barbarous revenge on those who had opposed him.

How was the career of Marius at last arrested ?

The tidings of the intended return of Sulla threw him into a condition of abject fear and terror. He was worn out by his fatigues, which, as he was now seventy-one years of age, he was little able to bear, and an attack of pleurisy for seven days was ended by his death on the eighteenth day of his consulship ; 86 B.C.

What was the fate of Cinna now that he was left without the support of Marius ?

He was murdered by his own soldiers as he was preparing to meet Sulla on his landing in Italy. With him the democratic party lost the only leader who was still capable of giving force to their resistance.

Was there yet any drawback to the complete success of Sulla ?

Yes ; the Samnite army which had joined the side of Marius opposed him immediately upon his entrance into Rome. A fiercely contested battle was fought at the Colline gate. Sulla was victorious, and the Samnite commander, finding his cause hopeless, slew himself. All opposition to Sulla was henceforth in vain.

How did Sulla use the power which seemed now his own ?

He proceeded to issue the most cruel decrees for the wholesale murder of all who had resisted him, confiscating their property, and depriving their descendants of the franchise. Rome was the scene of bloodshed, terror, and confusion, and none could feel that life or liberty was secure even for a day.

What office did Sulla now assume ?

When all opposition was thus forcibly overcome, he caused himself to be created Dictator, 81 B.C.

How did Sulla conduct himself in this new position?

From this time he showed a wisdom in his efforts for the restoration of the long broken order which could scarcely have been expected from his previous career of bloodthirsty selfishness. His measures were, however, for the most part, more prompt and forcible than far-seeing, and they left little or no lasting groundwork for prosperity. His great object was to give back to the Senate and aristocracy the power they had lost.

What gave rise about this time to a second war with Mithridates?

A claim made by him for the possession of Cappadocia. The Romans opposed the claim and declared war.

What was the end of this war?

Mithridates was victorious; and when peace was again restored, 81 B.C., a portion of Cappadocia remained in the hands of the King of Pontus.

What do we know of the last days of Sulla?

After three years' rule, he publicly laid down the Dictatorship, 79 B.C., and retired to Puteoli, on the shores of the Bay of Naples. Here he dragged out a miserable existence, given up to every kind of debauchery, and a prey to a frightful disease, which must have made him an object of loathing to himself and all around him. He left an autobiography, but no remains of it have been handed down to us.

Who was the most distinguished Roman general at the time of Sulla's death?

Cneius Pompeius, commonly known as Pompey the Great. He had been appointed by Sulla to pursue and destroy the few remaining adherents

of the Marian party who had taken refuge in Sicily and Africa, and it was for his success in this enterprise that he received from Sulla the surname of the Great.

CHAPTER XX.

DEATH OF SERTORIUS.

(B.C. 72.)

Who were now the chief civil leaders at Rome?

The Consuls, Æmilius Lepidus and Catulus, who headed the two great parties in the state after the resignation of Sulla. The interest of Lepidus was with the democratic side, and after the death of Sulla he endeavoured to undo all that the Dictator had effected, and that Catulus strove to uphold.

What was the result of this dissension between the Consuls?

Civil war at last broke out. Pompey joined the party of Catulus, who was quickly victorious, and Lepidus fled to Sardinia, where he died soon afterwards.

What were some of the leading features in the character of Pompey?

Courage, energy, and magnanimity, marred by a want of sincerity and truth. His unbounded ambition and love of popularity prevented even his friends from relying upon him.

Was there any important adherent of the Marian party still remaining?

Yes, Sertorius, one of the bravest and best of Romans. He was not, however, personally a friend of Marius, and had openly shown his horror of the atrocities committed by him. His support

was only given politically from disapproval of the measures of the party of Sulla.

Was Sertorius in Rome at the time of Sulla's death?

No; the province of Spain had been assigned to him by Marius, and thither he had gone as prætor. His influence by degrees became so great that he was enabled to establish an independent government.

What was the great wish of Sertorius?

To found a republic upon better principles than that of Rome, and in which Romans and Spaniards should be united.

By what means did Sertorius especially seek to benefit the Spaniards?

By establishing a school in which the children should be educated and instructed in the learning of Greece and Rome.

How was his authority strengthened?

By the superstition of the people, who believed that he was favoured by the gods, from the fact that he was always accompanied by a tame white fawn which had been given him by a native.

Did the Romans quietly recognise the independence of Sertorius?

No; a considerable force was sent into Spain against him, but Sertorius held his ground; and in order to strengthen himself, entered into an alliance, 74 B.C., with Mithridates VI., King of Pontus.

Was he supported by any of his countrymen?

He had now been joined by many whom Sulla had prosecuted, and he might have been to Rome a most formidable enemy, had not treachery and suspicion weakened his influence and at length ended his career.

What were the circumstances of his death?

Perperna, one of his generals, with some other Roman officers who had long been jealous of his authority, conspired against him, and slew him at a banquet in Osca, the town in which he had built his school.

Did Perperna assume the same authority as Sertorius?

Yes ; he disputed the power of Rome, and led his forces against Pompey who had been sent from Rome to oppose Sertorius. He was, however, totally defeated, and being taken prisoner was put to death. Thus the war in Spain was ended, and the last remnants of the Marian party were subdued.

CHAPTER XXI.

DEATH OF MITHRIDATES VI., KING OF PONTUS.

(B.C. 63.)

What enemies was Pompey called upon to oppose after his return from Spain?

A considerable army of gladiators and slaves. The nucleus of this army was a small body of seventy men who had broken loose from Capua, where they were being trained for the public games, and placed themselves under the leadership of one of their number, Spartacus, a brave Thracian, 73 B.C. They were joined by others, and the insurrection by degrees assumed such a formidable aspect, that an army was sent to quell it.

Who was the first general that undertook this task?

The prætor, Crassus, a man more famous for his riches than his talent, but the Senate determined to transfer the command to Pompey.

What was the end of the insurrection ?

Before Pompey reached the scene of action, Crassus gained a great victory over the slaves, in which Spartacus and 40,000 of his men were slain, 71 B.C. The rest, who had escaped, were intercepted and cut to pieces by the army of Pompey before they could reach a place of safety.

How was Pompey rewarded for his energy in defence of his country ?

He was created Consul, 70 B.C.

How did he discharge himself of this high trust ?

His conduct during his year of office displayed the weakness of his character. Though once a friend to Sulla and the aristocratic party, he sought to please the people by playing into the hands of the democrats, and helping to annul the very measures which a little earlier in his career he had joined with Catulus in supporting.

How long was Pompey allowed to live a life of peace ?

Until the year 67 B.C., when a new danger threatened Rome from the depredations of the pirates who had long infested the Mediterranean—many of them being driven through sheer distress to pursue this lawless mode of life. They had at length become so formidable that the port at Ostia, by which Rome received provisions, was unsafe, and there was a fear of famine.

What power was now conferred upon Pompey ?

He was invested with supreme authority, and unlimited resources were granted him for three years.

How long did Pompey take to subdue the pirates ?

Only two months. In that time he had seized or sunk all the ships belonging to the pirates, killed or taken prisoners a number of the men, and destroyed their strongholds in Cilicia. Many of

the pirates were, however, allowed to become colonists and thus to gain an honourable livelihood.

What other warfare was going on in Asia Minor at this time?

A third war with Mithridates VI., King of Pontus. No formal treaty had been concluded with this monarch after the Second War, and the peace was in fact only a suspension of hostilities. At the beginning of the year 74 B.C., Mithridates interfered in the question of the succession to the kingdom of Bithynia, which had been bequeathed to Rome by its king, Nicomedes III., and this brought matters to a crisis.

Who was chosen by the senate as general of the Roman army?

Lucullus, a man famous for his love of luxury and splendour; he was so successful that Mithridates was obliged to take refuge in the dominions of his son-in-law, Tigranes, King of Armenia, who refused to give him up on the demand of the Romans.

Was Lucullus allowed to bring the Third Mithridatic War to its close?

No; a mutiny broke out among his soldiers, and thus time and opportunity were lost. Mithridates returned to Pontus; and the Roman senate, finding that they were losing ground, superseded Lucullus, and then, being dissatisfied with his successor, transferred the command to Pompey.

Was Pompey invested with the same powers which had been granted to him during the contest with the pirates?

Yes; and being still in the neighbourhood of the scene of war, he was able at once to enter upon his duties.

What was his success?

From the first he was victorious. Tigranes was reduced to the condition of a Roman tributary. Mithridates was defeated in a battle on the banks of the Euphrates.

Whither did he then flee?

He made his way into the wild districts of the Caucasus, having conceived the daring project of gathering the barbarous tribes around him, and penetrating into Italy by the northern and western coasts of the Euxine, or Black Sea.

Was Mithridates able to carry out this project?

No; his son Pharnaces rebelled against him, and the unhappy king, in despair, took poison. He died 63 B.C., after a reign of fifty-seven years. His body was delivered to Pompey, who caused it to be buried with kingly honours.

CHAPTER XXII.

JERUSALEM TAKEN BY POMPEY THE GREAT.

(B.C. 63.)

What was the political condition of Judea at this period?

It was nominally independent, but really subject.

What had been the government of the Jews after their return from their captivity in Babylon?

From that time until the overthrow of the Persian monarchy under Alexander the Great, the Jews had been governed by their high priests, subject to the kings of Persia; but it was no time of peace, for in the wars which followed between Alexander's

successors, Palestine, situated between Egypt and Syria, became the battle-field for the two countries.

Which country was victorious?

Syria prevailed at length, and Antiochus Epiphanes, the worst of the Syrian kings, oppressed the Jews until the famous Judas Maccabæus and his brothers rose against him, and freed their country from his yoke.

How long did the Maccabean family retain the supreme power in Palestine?

For nearly 130 years. They were at first high priests, but afterwards assumed the title of kings. The Maccabees were also called Asmonæans.

Who was reigning in Judea in the time of Pompey the Great?

The succession was disputed by Hyrcanus and Aristobulus, two princes of the Maccabæan family. Both applied to Pompey for assistance.

With whom did the Roman general side?

With Hyrcanus; and to support him he proceeded to besiege and take Jerusalem, which was in the power of Aristobulus.

What title was given to Hyrcanus?

He was placed in authority with the title of Tetrarch, which, though originally given to the governor of the fourth part of a country, had at length come to be applied to a dependent king.

By what act did Pompey make himself hateful to the Jews?

By an act of great irreverence; for without any regard to the entreaties of the priests, he forced his way into the temple, and profaned the innermost sanctuary—the Holy of Holies.

How was Pompey received at Rome on his return from the East?

The people came out to meet him, and his tri-

umph was the most magnificent that had yet been seen.

Who were conspicuous among the prisoners of rank who marched before his chariot?

Aristobulus, who had contended for the kingdom of Judæa, several of the children of Mithridates, and a son of Tigranes, King of Armenia. Pompey treated most of his captives with generosity, restoring them to their own countries.

What distinguished person had rendered an especial service to the state shortly before the return of Pompey?

Marcus Tullius Cicero, one of the most famous orators the world has ever known, who by his energy and perseverance had raised himself from comparative obscurity to the highest offices of the state.

What was the character of Cicero?

Cicero was vain and inconsistent, but very keen and clear-sighted, and it was this latter faculty which enabled him to benefit his country.

What discovery did Cicero make of great importance to the state?

He discovered a conspiracy planned by Catiline, formerly one of the wicked partisans of Sulla, to murder the senate, and rebuild his own shattered fortunes and those of his upholders by a revolution uprooting the constitution of the country.

How did Cicero display his eloquence in the case of the Catiline conspiracy?

By four splendid orations, which have been handed down to us, and in which he laid bare the treachery of Catiline.

What was the fate of the conspirators?

They were condemned to death, but Catiline escaped into Etruria, where he headed an open insurrection, in which he was defeated and slain.

How was Cicero honoured by the senate ?

He received the title of 'father of his country' in memory of their deliverance.

Who was the most powerful enemy of Cicero about this time ?

Clodius, a man notorious for his crimes and cruelty, who had been boldly attacked by Cicero in one of his famous speeches.

How did Clodius seek to compass Cicero's destruction ?

Being elected Tribune, he obtained the passing of a law by which any one who had put to death a Roman citizen without trial was pronounced an outlaw. Cicero fell under condemnation by this law for his hasty execution of some of the Catiline conspirators. To escape the sentence which must otherwise have been passed upon him, he went into exile.

Did he long remain absent from his country ?

No, the senate soon repented of their ingratitude, and at the end of sixteen months Cicero, who had given way to weak lamentation over his misfortunes, was recalled and triumphantly restored to his former position.

CHAPTER XXIII.

INVASION OF BRITAIN BY JULIUS CÆSAR.

(B.C. 55.)

Was there any influence at Rome at this time greater than that of Pompey ?

Yes ; Caius Julius Cæsar, a member of one of the noblest patrician families in the state, was now the man of greatest weight and influence. He

stands, indeed, in the foremost rank among the great men of the world, as a statesman, an orator, and a general. His popularity was rapidly increasing at the period of Pompey's return from the East, and in 59 B.C. he was chosen Consul.

How did Cæsar seek to consolidate his power ?

By forming an alliance with Pompey and Crassus; it was agreed between them that no important measure should be carried without the consent of all three. This alliance was called the First Triumvirate.

How did the members of the Triumvirate divide the principal provinces of Rome between themselves ?

The command of Gaul was given to Julius Cæsar, Pompey had Spain, and Syria was assigned to Crassus, who, rendered reckless by his love of wealth, carried on a lawless plundering war in Asia.

What was the fate of Crassus ?

He was slain in an attack upon the Parthians, 54 B.C. His head was cut off and sent to the Parthian general, who caused melted gold to be poured into the mouth of his dead foe, saying, 'Sate thyself now with that metal of which in life thou wert so greedy.'

Did Pompey proceed in person to take possession of his province ?

No ; he preferred to exercise his authority in Spain by deputy, and when Cæsar had set out for Cisalpine Gaul, the central power lay almost exclusively in the hands of Pompey.

When Cæsar became the Governor of Gaul, was Transalpine Gaul part of the province ?

It was so called ; but only the southern part of the country had been subdued, and Cæsar's government was in fact a war of conquest. The *Commentaries* written by himself give a detailed and

accurate account of his victories over the barbarians and the extension of the Roman power.

Mention some of the principal events of Cæsar's campaigns.

He defeated several barbarous tribes in Gaul, and then proceeding northwards subdued the Belgæ, a Keltic tribe, by whom it appears that Britain was originally peopled. Another successful attack upon two of the Germanic tribes followed ; and Cæsar then threw a wooden bridge across the Rhine in order to inspire the Germans with terror, but he only remained eighteen days on the further side of the river, and after devastating the neighbouring country he returned to Gaul, having destroyed the bridge which he had made.

What bold expedition did Cæsar next undertake ?

He crossed the Channel and landed on the south-east coast of Britain, in the summer of 55 B.C. The British Kelts defended themselves bravely, and Cæsar, being unable to prosecute the war further at that time, went back to Gaul.

When did Cæsar again invade Britain ?

In the following year, when he again crossed over to Britain, attacked the Kelts under their brave leader Cassivelaunus, and advancing beyond the river Thames took Verulam (now St. Albans), the capital of Cassivelaunus, and conquered parts of Essex and Middlesex.

In what way did the Britons acknowledge that they were conquered ?

By giving Cæsar a number of hostages, and promising to pay tribute to Rome. This promise was not, however, fulfilled, and as Cæsar was unable to leave troops in the island, the Britons soon ceased to acknowledge allegiance to their conquerors.

Was there still any power of resistance left in Gaul ?

Yes ; in the year B.C. 53 the Keltic tribes, allying themselves with the Germans, made a great effort to recover their freedom. Rallying under their brave leader, Vercingetorix, they made a desperate resistance. Vercingetorix was, however, compelled to surrender in B.C. 51, and Cæsar, having effectually subdued his enemies, retired to Cisalpine Gaul, leaving the greater part of his troops on the further side the Alps.

CHAPTER XXIV.

BATTLE OF PHARSALIA.

(B.C. 48.)

What was the state of politics in Rome at the close of Cæsar's campaigns in Gaul ?

At this time, Crassus being dead, the chief power lay in the hands of Cæsar and Pompey, but they were no longer friends. Rivalry had sprung up between them ; and when Julia, the wife of Pompey and daughter of Cæsar, died, the already weakened tie was almost entirely broken.

Was Cæsar's influence as great as it had formerly been ?

No ; it had been somewhat weakened by the overbearing character of his adherents in Rome, and he had to contend against the alarm and jealousy of the aristocratic party, and the especial enmity of the stern Senator, Cato, who, watchful for his country's freedom, feared the day when the great general might, from his increasing power, become the sole lord of Rome.

What arbitrary measure was adopted against Cæsar by the jealous Roman Senate ?

In the year B.C. 50, the very year of his return from Germany, when he was still in Cisalpine Gaul, he received a command to disband his army before a certain day, on pain of being accounted a public enemy.

Was any opposition raised to this resolution of the Senate ?

Yes ; the two tribunes, Mark Antony and Cassius, resisted the decree, requiring that at least Pompey also should lay down his power ; and when they found it impossible to gain this point, or to prevent the measure, they fled to Cæsar, who had by this time reached Ravenna, and besought him to avenge the outraged dignity of their office.

Upon what most important step did Cæsar now decide ?

He determined to disregard the mandate of the Senate, and, instead of disbanding his forces, he, with the veterans who were with him, crossed the Rubicon (a little stream which separated his province of Cisalpine Gaul from Italy), and marched towards Rome ; orders being sent that the remainder of his troops should follow him.

How was Cæsar received by the Italian cities ?

His march resembled that of a triumphant conqueror. Most of the principal towns upon his route at once threw open their gates to him, and before he reached Rome such numbers had gathered round him that he was already in command of a considerable army.

Had Pompey been prepared for this result of Cæsar's resistance ?

No ; he had relied far too implicitly upon his own power and the favour of the people, and, being unprepared to meet his enemy, he fled from Rome to Brundisium, a port upon the south-eastern coast of Italy, and, fearing the pursuit of Cæsar, sailed

across to Greece, while his rival entered Rome without opposition.

What was one of the especial sources of Cæsar's popularity?

His almost uniform moderation in victory and success. He preferred rather to be ignorant of crime than to punish it, and his triumphant entry into Rome is in marked contrast with that of Marius or of Sulla when those leaders had attained a similar position of great power.

Did Cæsar take any measures against Pompey?

Yes; having established his authority in Rome, he proceeded at once to Spain, which was Pompey's province, and therefore the point where the party of the latter was strongest. By his military genius and wise government the whole country was won over to his side in forty days.

What office was now conferred upon Cæsar?

Before his return to Rome, while at Massilia (Marseilles) in Gaul he was appointed Dictator at Rome. He, however, laid down the office almost immediately, fearing the jealousy of the republican party. Being then elected Consul for the year B.C. 48, he prepared to carry on the war with Pompey in Greece.

Had Pompey remained inactive during his retreat in Greece?

No; he had collected allies and forces in Sicily, Africa, Egypt, and Asia, and had also a large fleet at his command. Neither was he without influential supporters at Rome. Cicero and Cato were on his side, and Marcus Brutus, a stern and honourable but narrow-minded man, also joined the cause of Pompey, from no personal regard to him, but because he believed that in so doing he served the best interests of his country.

Where was Pompey when Cæsar landed in Greece?

At Dyrrhachium, a town on the coast of Illyricum. Cæsar laid siege to it, but was obliged after a while to withdraw and move his forces southwards into Thessaly.

How did Pompey regard this apparent retreat?

He looked on it as a signal of defeat, and following the Roman army he found Cæsar encamped upon the plains of Pharsalia. Confident of success and misled by evil counsel he ventured on a battle on the 9th of August, B.C. 48.

What was the result of the battle of Pharsalia?

The troops of Cæsar were triumphantly victorious, and Pompey, disguising himself as best he could, fled to Egypt, intending to take refuge with the young King, Ptolemy Dionysius, whose father he had some years before assisted to recover his crown.

Was Pompey received in Egypt with the kindness he had expected?

No; upon reaching the shore he was treacherously murdered by the order of the ministers of the Egyptian king, who feared the wrath of Cæsar if they received him. His head was then cut off, and the body left upon the shore, and afterwards buried by a faithful slave and an old soldier who had fought under Pompey.

How did Cæsar receive the tidings of his rival's death?

Cæsar, a few days afterwards, landed in Africa, and the head of his enemy was brought to him, but he turned away from the sight with tears, and ordered the murderers to be put to death. By his command a statue of Pompey was afterwards erected at Rome.*

Where did the friends of Pompey take refuge after the battle of Pharsalia?

* It is supposed to be the same which is still to be seen in the Palazzo Spada.

Cicero went to Italy, Cato to Africa. Marcus Brutus was sought out and freely pardoned by the conqueror, and even honoured with his friendship.

CHAPTER XXV.

CLEOPATRA PLACED ON THE THRONE OF EGYPT.

(B.C. 47.)

In what way did Cæsar interfere in the political affairs of Egypt?

The young King, Ptolemy Dionysius, and his sister Cleopatra were by the will of their father to reign conjointly, but disagreements had arisen between them, and Cæsar was invited to be arbitrator in the quarrel. He adjudged the crown to the beautiful Cleopatra, and consequently involved himself in war with Ptolemy.

What was the end of the struggle between Cleopatra and her brother?

By the aid of Cæsar Alexandria was taken, and the young king fell into the hands of the Roman general. He managed, however, to escape and put himself at the head of his followers, but Cæsar again defeated him; and, in attempting to save himself by crossing a river, he was drowned. Cleopatra was then, without further opposition, placed upon the throne.

What great public catastrophe occurred during this war?

The destruction of the Alexandrian Library, the most celebrated in the world, and said to have contained 400,000 volumes. The fire began by the

burning of Ptolemy's ships—the conflagration extending accidentally to the Library ; B.C. 47.

Did Cæsar remain in Egypt when the government of Cleopatra was established ?

Yes ; fascinated with the beauty of the Queen, he lingered for nine months at her Court, and was only roused to energy by the tidings that a war had broken out in Pontus, and that Pharnaces, the son of Mithridates VI., had defeated the army of a Roman Legate.

Was the war in Pontus of long duration ?

No ; Cæsar hastened thither, and so speedily conquered Pharnaces that the victory was described by himself in his celebrated despatch to the Roman Senate, in three words, ' Veni, vidi, vici ; ' ' I came, I saw, I conquered.'

Was the party of Pompey now quite extinguished ?

No. They collected an army in Africa, and allied themselves with Juba, King of Numidia ; but Cæsar, after conquering Pharnaces, embarked for Africa, and in a battle at Thapsus (B.C. 46) struck a deadly blow at his opponents. Juba was slain, and the kingdom of Numidia was made a Roman province.

What celebrated Roman died at this time in Africa ?

Cato, the censor. After the battle of Thapsus he killed himself, in despair at the extent of Cæsar's power.

By whom was the contest with Cæsar continued ?

By Cneius and Sextus Pompey, the two sons of the great general. Having escaped to Spain, they stirred up rebellion there, and offered a most formidable resistance. They were, however, defeated by Cæsar, B.C. 45. Cneius Pompey was slain while escaping from the battle. Sextus Pompey became a pirate, making Sicily his head-quarters, and committed such

formidable depredations on the ships laden with corn, that the Government at Rome, in the fear of famine, concluded peace with him at Misenum B.C. 39, giving him the government of Sicily and some other provinces.

What useful measure did Cæsar carry out in the interval of his wars?

The reform of the Calendar, which, through the neglect or ignorance of the priests, had gained three months upon the true time. In B.C. 46, 90 days were added to November, and arrangements were made to prevent the recurrence of similar confusion. The year was still, however, 11 minutes too long, and in A.D. 1582, Pope Gregory XIII. regulated it again, taking from the month of September 11 days. This is the origin of the expressions now in use, 'old style' and 'new style,' in speaking of a given day of the month.

CHAPTER XXVI.

DEATH OF JULIUS CÆSAR.

(B.C. 44.)

How was Cæsar honoured on his return to Rome after the defeat of Cneius Pompey?

He was allowed the consulship for ten successive years; the title of Imperator, or the Great, was conferred on him; and the month Quintilis, in which he was born, was named after him, Julius (July). Indeed, no honours were too great to be bestowed upon him, and when the office of Dictator was granted him for life, Cæsar had the power of a king, and desired to obtain the name.

By what measures did he increase his popularity ?

He occupied himself diligently in reforming laws, making roads, draining the Pontine marshes, and in other public works. He endeavoured to increase the commerce of the Romans, and to revive the love of agriculture ; and in all ways strove to make the people look to him as their friend and benefactor.

Was this state of prosperity allowed to continue long ?

No. Only one short year after Cæsar's return from Gaul a scheme was laid for his assassination. Marcus Junius Brutus, who owed so much to him, and Caius Cassius, a man of far inferior character, were the leaders of the conspiracy, which was entered into by Brutus unwillingly, on what he deemed patriotic grounds ; for Cæsar's evident ambition alarmed him, and he dreaded the evils which might in consequence accrue to the Republic.

When was the plot carried into execution ?

On the Ides of March (March 15th) B.C. 44 ; at a meeting of the Senate, convened for the purpose of conferring on Cæsar the title of *King out of Italy*, before his intended campaign against the Parthians.

Who struck the first blow ?

Cassius. Several other persons then rushed upon Cæsar, who fell at the foot of the statue he had raised to the memory of Pompey, uttering one sad and dying reproach to Brutus, '*Et tu, Brute !*' ('And thou, Brutus !') as he recognised him among the assassins.

How did Rome receive the tidings of her great leader's death ?

A sense of relief from the control of a power of which they hardly knew the limit seems to have mingled with consternation. The Senate were paralysed. No revenge was taken on the mur-

derers, and, by the advice of Cicero, the question whether Cæsar was or was not a tyrant was left unsettled.

When did the first outbreak of excitement occur?

On the occasion of Cæsar's funeral, when the body was brought into the Forum, and Mark Antony, in a funeral oration, extolled Cæsar's valour, mercy, and generosity, shown especially in the provisions of his will. The feelings of the fickle people were aroused by this address. Threats of revenge resounded on all sides, and the murderers were forced to flee the country. Brutus escaped to Macedonia, and Cassius to Syria, both which provinces had been consigned to them respectively by Cæsar. Decimus Brutus, another of the conspirators, took refuge in Cisalpine Gaul.

To whom did Cæsar leave his name and a great part of his property?

To Caius Julius Cæsar Octavianus (afterwards called Augustus), his great-nephew and adopted son, who was at this time only nineteen years old.

CHAPTER XXVII.

BATTLE OF PHILIPPI.

(B.C. 42.)

Who aspired to take the lead in Rome immediately after Cæsar's death?

Mark Antony; but his abuse of power provoked many enemies. Cicero alone had courage to resist him in fourteen famous speeches to the Senate, which were called Philippics, because they were like the speeches of the Greek orator Demosthenes *against Philip*, the father of Alexander the Great.

Against whom did Antony direct his first attack ?

Against Decimus Brutus, in Cisalpine Gaul ; but, being unsuccessful, he crossed the Alps and entered Gaul, where he was received as an ally by Lepidus, the governor.

What part did Octavius take meanwhile ?

With a new army, he attacked and defeated Decimus, and then entered into an alliance with Antony and Lepidus, known as the Second Triumvirate. By mutual agreement they distributed between themselves the great provinces of the State.

By what means did the Triumvirs propose to rid themselves of their enemies ?

By putting them to death, regardless of private friendship or relationship. A list was accordingly made of those who were to be murdered. No one ventured to stop the proceeding, and Rome became once more the scene of the most terrible carnage.

What celebrated politician was among the victims of this wholesale assassination ?

Cicero. He was the friend and supporter of Octavius ; but his celebrated speeches against Mark Antony, nevertheless, could not be pardoned.

What revenge did Octavius and Antony take upon the murderers of Cæsar ?

After establishing their own authority at Rome, they proceeded to make war upon Brutus and Cassius, who, acting together, had collected an army in Macedonia.

What was the result of this attack ?

In the first encounter which took place Brutus gained some slight success, whilst Cassius, misled by false information, despaired of his own cause and slew himself. A second battle followed soon after in the same neighbourhood. Brutus was then signally defeated, and, like Cassius, died by his own hand, B.C. 42.

After the battle of Philippi, how did the Triumvirs divide the government of Rome?

Antony went to Asia, Lepidus to Africa, and Octavius remained at Rome.

Was the alliance of the Second Triumvirate one of long duration?

No ; jealousy and ambition were fruitful sources of discord. The real power rested with Octavius ; for Lepidus was old and satisfied with the office of chief Pontiff, whilst Antony gave himself up to a career of injustice, extortion, and self-indulgence. Fascinated by the charms of the Egyptian Queen, Cleopatra, whom he met in Cilicia, he deserted the government of his province to lead at her court a life of luxury, from which his wife Fulvia, an ambitious woman, who saw the increasing power of Octavius, in vain endeavoured to recall him.

What steps were adopted by Fulvia for this purpose?

Taking advantage of the suffering condition of the poor in Italy, and assisted by her husband's brother, she gathered a number of the discontented and disaffected around her at Perugia, which thus became the focus of a formidable insurrection against Octavius.

What interest did Antony exhibit in the insurrection?

He prepared to return to Italy and take part in it, but he delayed, in Sicily, hoping to receive aid from Sextus Pompey, and the contest was brought to a close before his arrival. He then not only reconciled himself with Octavius, but on the death of Fulvia, which happened the same year, he married his sister Octavia.

What was the conclusion of the career of Sextus Pompey?

Although the government of Sicily had been secured to him, he was still addicted to his pirati-



cal practices. By order of Octavius, the war which had begun when he agreed to aid Antony was continued, until Sextus was reduced to submission, and obliged to flee to Asia, where he was subsequently murdered by command of Antony.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

BATTLE OF ACTIUM.

(B.C. 31.)

What war in the East was carried on by Antony after his marriage with Octavia?

A war with the Parthians, who had for some years been contending against the Romans. Antony was very unsuccessful in this campaign, but he cared little for the dishonour to the Roman arms, being only anxious to be again with Cleopatra in Egypt.

What just cause of offence did Antony give to Octavius?

For the sake of the Egyptian Queen, he divorced Octavia, thus establishing a deadly enmity between Octavius and himself.

How did Octavius avenge the insult offered to his sister?

By a war begun 32 B.C. The Roman and Egyptian fleets met near Actium, on the Grecian shores of the Adriatic, 31 B.C. The victory of the Romans was secured by the alarm of Cleopatra, who had accompanied Antony to the scene of action. Taking flight with her ships, she was followed by Antony, and the troops surrendered to Octavius. Nicopolis,

or, The City of Victory, was built near to Actium in memory of the battle.

What was the ultimate fate of Antony?

Being pursued by Octavius to Alexandria, no resource was left to him or to Cleopatra but death or submission to the victor. Antony, receiving a false report of the death of Cleopatra, fell upon his own sword, but lingered for a little while, and finding that the Queen was yet alive, caused himself to be conveyed into her presence, where he expired.

Did Cleopatra long survive him?

No; when she found herself virtually a prisoner in the hands of Octavius, she attempted to captivate him, but in vain, and fearing lest she should be forced to adorn his triumph, she dressed herself in her royal robes, and killed herself by means of an asp, which she caused to be conveyed to her in a basket of figs. Cleopatra was the last of the dynasty of the Egyptian Ptolemies, who took their rise from one of the generals of Alexander the Great.

What celebrated King of Judæa took part in many of the Roman contests?

Herod the Great, in whose reign our Blessed Saviour was born. Whilst governor of Galilee, he sided with Brutus and Cassius; but after the battle of Philippi, he submitted himself to Antony, who pardoned him for the sake of the friendship that had existed between Julius Cæsar and his father.

Did Herod continue to dwell in Palestine?

No; in the course of the war between Parthia and Rome, Judæa was invaded by the Parthians, and Herod fled from his own country, and took refuge with Cleopatra. He afterwards went to Rome, and won the favour of Octavius, who placed him upon the throne of Judæa.

What especial era in the History of Rome is marked by the death of Antony?

The actual end of the Republic, and the concen-

tration of the power of the State in the hands of Octavius. Peace was now universal throughout the dominions of Rome ; and, as a sign of the fact, the gates of the Temple of Janus were closed for the first time after a period of 200 years.

How was Octavius received at Rome after Antony's defeat, and what titles were subsequently conferred upon him ?

He was welcomed with the greatest enthusiasm, and in the year 27 B.C. the title of Augustus, or Venerable, was added to his name, and the month Sextilis (August) was called after him. He was also proclaimed Imperator,* having the chief command of all the troops for ten years, a period which was afterwards extended to his death. The office of Tribune for life was added.

Did the office of Consul become thenceforth extinct ?

The office ceased, but the honorary title continued to exist. Consular dates (or dates with the mention of the year in which such or such a Consul was in power) were in use long after our Saviour's birth.

How was the Roman jealousy of despotic power overcome at last ?

Partly by the extreme prudence with which Augustus received and used his honours, carefully avoiding the title of King, preserving the ancient forms of the Republic, and from time to time appealing afresh to the people for the renewal of his authority. But Augustus was yet more willingly obeyed because the misery of the nation, caused by foreign wars and internal contests, showed that the best hope for the country was in the wise control of one person.

* This title was originally given to any very distinguished general, but after Augustus became the ruler of Rome, it was confined to him and his successors, and from it has arisen the modern title Emperor.

CHAPTER XXIX.

AUGUSTUS CÆSAR FIRST EMPEROR.

(B.C. 27.)

Did Augustus Cæsar fulfil the hopes of the Roman people ?

Yes ; he improved the laws, strove to execute justice, and so greatly encouraged arts and learning that his reign, known as the Augustan age, has become a proverb, and the epithet is applied generally to any period in a country's history rendered remarkable by the display of literary talent.

What noble Roman joined with the Emperor in encouraging literature ?

Mecænas, the personal friend of the Emperor, and the intimate friend and patron of all the men of genius and talent in Rome.

Name the most celebrated writers during the reign of Augustus.

Virgil, who wrote *The Æneid*, which gives an account of the destruction of Troy and the settlement of Æneas in Italy ; and *The Georgics*—a celebrated poem upon agricultural subjects. Ovid, who wrote *The Metamorphoses*—a poem relating to the mythological tales of the gods—and *The Fasti*, or histories of the principal festivals of the year ; Horace, celebrated for his odes and satires ; Cornelius Nepos, for his biographies ; and Livy, distinguished as an historian. There were also many writers of secondary importance.

What were some of the principal articles of commerce in use at Rome during this reign ?

Ice and cheese were largely imported from the districts of the Alps ; pork and salt from Gaul ; pices, precious stones, and silk from the East ;

glass and paper (made from the papyrus reed) from Egypt; gold, silver, and iron from other provinces.

What military regulations were established by Augustus?

He appointed ten Prætorian cohorts, containing in all 6,000 men, to be his body-guard; three of these divisions were stationed at Rome, the rest being dispersed in different districts of Italy. These Prætorian Guards became afterwards the most important power in the State.

Was the peace established at the beginning of this reign one of long duration?

No; although Augustus endeavoured to rule well and faithfully, rebellions broke out against him in various parts of the empire. Contests were carried on in Spain, Africa, Egypt, Gaul, and Germany.

What was the general result of these contests?

The generals of Augustus were usually successful, but during an insurrection in Western Germany, a great disaster befell the Roman arms under their leader Varus, who was completely defeated by the German Arminius, B.C. 9, and the Romans were from thenceforth confined to the western bank of the Rhine.

How did the Emperor receive the news of this defeat?

It is said to have occasioned him a grief which he never overcame; so that he would start from his sleep exclaiming: '*Varus, Varus, give me back my legions.*'

Was the domestic life of Augustus happy?

No; the wickedness of his third wife Livia, and of his daughter Julia, the child of his second wife, Scribonia, proved a constant source of distress.

How many children had Livia?

Two, Tiberius and Drusus, by her first husband.

Drusus died, in the year 9 B.C., from the effects of a fall from his horse while in command of the German army between the Rhine and the Elbe.

Whom did Tiberius marry ?

He became the second husband of Julia, the Emperor's daughter ; and the one desire of Livia was that he should succeed to the imperial dignity.

Was Augustus inclined to make Tiberius his heir ?

No ; his affections centred in Julia and her two little children by her first husband, Agrippa. The children, who died young, are said to have been murdered by the contrivance of Livia.

Did Livia obtain her wish with regard to the succession ?

Yes ; for the wickedness of Julia at length became such a scandal that it was necessary to banish her from Rome, and Augustus, from this time being entirely under the tyranny of his wife, was persuaded to acknowledge Tiberius as his heir.

Where did Augustus die ?

At Nola, in Campania, A.D. 14, at the age of seventy.

What was the character of Augustus Cæsar ?

He appears to have been generous, humane, and just, except when these virtues interfered with his ambition. His talents were great and his tastes refined. The difference in his conduct before and after his accession to the empire is so great, that it has been said of him that it had been good for mankind if he had never been born, or if he had never died.

What event, the greatest in the whole world's history, took place in the reign of Augustus Cæsar ?

It was in the reign of Augustus that our Blessed Saviour was born at Bethlehem in Judæa. The period was remarkable as one of universal peace.

CHAPTER XXX.

TIBERIUS.

(A.D. 14-37.)

Who succeeded Augustus ?

His stepson, Tiberius, who had been already adopted as his heir. He came to the throne without any opposition A.D. 14, at the age of fifty-six.

What were the leading features in the character of Tiberius ?

Suspicion and deceit. In his early life he had shown great energy and talent, and on his accession to the throne he at first veiled his true character so successfully, that hopes of a wise rule were entertained.

Who was the object of the especial fear and hatred of Tiberius ?

His nephew Germanicus, the son of his brother Drusus. During the lifetime of Augustus, Tiberius had been forced to adopt Germanicus as his son, and it was thought that he would succeed him.

Where was Germanicus when Tiberius became Emperor ?

In Germany, where he was prosecuting a successful war against the barbarian tribes who were yet unconquered ; and where by his virtues he had made himself so beloved and respected by his soldiers, that they offered to make him Emperor in his uncle's stead.

What was the fate of Germanicus ?

Although he had been perfectly loyal to Tiberius, and had refused to listen to the wishes of his soldiers, he was recalled from Germany by the jealous Tiberius and afterwards sent to the East. He died suddenly at Antioch, in Syria, A.D. 19, and

it was generally believed that he had been poisoned by the order of his uncle.

What persons exercised the greatest influence over Tiberius?

His haughty mother, Livia, and Sejanus, the prefect of the Guards, a man as wicked and as overbearing as the Emperor himself.

What advice did Sejanus give which afterwards seriously affected the succession to the Roman Empire?

He counselled Tiberius to concentrate the whole force of the Prætorian Guard in their barracks close to the walls of Rome. A formidable body of troops was thus always at hand for the support of the candidate who might be best able to secure its services, and by degrees these troops became all-powerful in the choice of the emperors.

Did Tiberius, like Augustus, retain the ancient forms of the Republic?

No; he ruthlessly abolished them, repressing the assembly of the *Comitia Tributa*, and giving all the power in cases of trial and impeachment to a servile Senate.

Where did Tiberius usually reside?

In the island of Capræ, in the Bay of Naples, where he is said to have led a life of crime and self-indulgence, leaving Sejanus free to work his wicked will at Rome.*

How did Sejanus seek to advance his own interests?

By the murder of all who stood between himself and the attainment of the crown. Among his victims were the wife of Germanicus and two of her children. The youngest, Caligula, escaped to Capræ, and was afterwards appointed by Tiberius to be his heir. Sejanus also brought about the death

* Modern historians have thrown considerable doubt on the wickedness usually ascribed to Tiberius.

of Drusus, the only son of Tiberius, and then sought to marry his widow.

How did Tiberius act on receiving the tidings of this intended alliance?

He accused Sejanus of high treason, and the Senate gladly condemned the wicked minister to death, A.D. 31. The supporters of Sejanus soon shared his fate.

Who succeeded Sejanus in the chief authority in the State?

Macro, who conspired with Caligula against the life of Tiberius.

Where did Tiberius meet his death?

At a villa near Misenum. Feeble from disease and age, Tiberius fell into a state of stupor which was mistaken for actual death, and Caligula was at once proclaimed Emperor, but finding that this step was premature, and fearing the vengeance of Tiberius, he agreed with Macro that the wished for end should be secured, and Tiberius was suffocated by Macro, and expired A.D. 37 at the age of 78.

What were the principal military occurrences in the reign of Tiberius?

There were insurrections in Gaul and Africa, which were easily put down, but the great call upon the valour of the Roman troops was in Germany. The insurrection begun in Hungary in the reign of Augustus, still continued, so that the Romans were unable to obtain any permanent footing on the right bank of the Rhine.

What event of greatest moment to us all took place in the land of Judæa while Tiberius was living at Capreæ, and Sejanus ruling at Rome?

The Crucifixion of our Blessed Lord and Saviour under Pontius Pilate, at Jerusalem, A.D. 33.

CHAPTER XXXI.

CAIUS CALIGULA.

(A.D. 37-41.)

Who was the adopted heir and successor of Tiberius?

Caius Caligula, the son of Germanicus, who in person is said to have resembled his father.

What was the character of Caligula?

At the beginning of his reign he gave promise of generosity, and showed wisdom in the management of public affairs, but a severe illness at the end of eight months is supposed to have destroyed his reason. Be this as it may, the rest of his reign was certainly marked by conduct as cruel as it was apparently insane, for Caligula took pleasure only in torture and bloodshed, low companionship and extravagances of the worst description.

Was the reign of Caligula marked by any foreign conquest?

No. He undertook, indeed, the invasion of Britain, but he went no farther than the sea coast of Gaul, where he drew up his soldiers in battle array, and ordered them to collect shells from the shore, calling these the spoils of the conquered ocean.

What was the end of Caligula?

He was murdered in his own palace by one of the Prætorian Guards, A.D. 41.

What names familiar in the Gospel History are connected with the reign of Caligula?

Those of Pontius Pilate, Herod Antipas, and Agrippa. Pilate, being accused of oppression and injustice, was banished to Transalpine Gaul, where it is said that he destroyed himself by throwing

himself headlong from the rocky mountain on the banks of the Rhone which now bears his name.*

In what way was the government of Judæa connected with the Roman Empire after the reign of Herod the Great?

Archelaus, the son of Herod, having succeeded his father, the throne was disputed by his brother Herod Antipas. Both appealed to Augustus, who decided that Archelaus should rule half the kingdom under the title of Ethnarch, and that the remaining half should be divided between Herod's two sons, Philip and Herod Antipas, who took the title of Tetrarch.

What mention is made of Herod Antipas in the Gospel History?

It was he who put St. John the Baptist to death, and before whom our Blessed Lord vouchsafed to be set at nought, and tried.

What became of the territory of Archelaus after his death?

It was made into a Roman province, and placed under the command of the governor, Pontius Pilate. This state of things continued until Caligula gave the title of king to Herod Agrippa, a descendant of Herod the Great, who had been for some time living at Rome.

How was Herod Antipas affected by the promotion of Herod Agrippa?

His jealousy was aroused, and acting by the advice of his wife Herodias, he applied to Caligula for a like honour. The Emperor, however, resented his presumption, and transferring his dominion to Agrippa, banished Antipas to Spain, where he died.

*The legend associated with the mountain in Gaul has been transferred to Mount Pilatus, near Lucerne, in Switzerland.

CHAPTER XXXII.

CLAUDIUS.

(A.D. 41-54.)

Who succeeded Caligula in the Empire?

Claudius, the brother of Germanicus, A.D. 41. He had hidden himself at the time of his nephew's murder, and afterwards, being a man of feeble bodily and mental power, had lived a life of obscurity in the imperial palace, but on the death of Caligula he was dragged forth and proclaimed Emperor at the age of 51.

Did Claudius prove a better ruler than his nephew?

Yes; he began his reign well, administered strict justice, and set on foot several public works, especially the aqueduct which still bears his name, and which brought water to Rome from a distance of forty miles. He also fortified and deepened the fort of Ostia, and drained the water of the lake Fucinus into the Liris, in order to strengthen the current of the river.

What was the principal war in which Claudius engaged?

A war in Britain, which was invaded by a Roman army A.D. 43. Claudius himself was only sixteen days in Britain, but his general Vespasian was left, with his son Titus, to finish what the Emperor had begun.

What progress did the Romans make at this time in the conquest of Britain?

The Isle of Wight is said to have been conquered, and London founded, under the name of Augusta. Caractacus, a south Welsh king, was also taken prisoner and carried to Rome, A.D. 51, and the south-eastern part of Britain became a Roman province.

Was the close of the reign of Claudius worthy of commencement?

No ; he was induced to leave the government in the hands of unworthy favourites, and especially of his wicked wife, Messalina, who at length openly contracted another marriage, and, in consequence, was put to death by order of Claudius.

Whom did Claudius marry after the divorce of Messalina ?

He took for his fourth wife Agrippina, the daughter of Germanicus, a person, if possible, more wicked than Messalina.

What was the one great desire of Agrippina with regard to the succession to the throne ?

That the sons of Claudius should be set aside, and that Nero, her own son by her first husband, should succeed to the empire.

What steps did she take to secure this object ?

She prevailed upon Claudius to adopt Nero to the prejudice of his own son Britannicus, and then poisoned the Emperor A.D. 54.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

NERO.

(A.D. 54-68.)

Who succeeded Claudius ?

Nero, the son of Agrippina. He was proclaimed Emperor at the age of seventeen.

What wise counsellors had been concerned in Nero's education ?

The philosopher Seneca, and Burrus, the Præfect of the Prætorian guards, both of whom used their influence to develop the talent which Nero really

possessed, and to restrain the evil in his disposition.

What was the result of their efforts ?

The new Emperor, in the first five years of his reign, was regarded as one of the best of rulers ; but after a quarrel with his mother, Agrippina, whose cruelty he endeavoured to check, his worst qualities of anger and jealousy were aroused, and his character changed.

In what way did Agrippina excite Nero's jealousy ?

She endeavoured to raise to the throne Britannicus, the son of Claudius ; and Nero in revenge caused both Britannicus and Agrippina to be murdered.

Was the death of Agrippina caused by Nero alone ?

No ; it was approved both by Seneca and Burrus, who thought that either the Emperor or his mother must be destroyed, as they could not live in peace together ; and they were well aware of the crimes of Agrippina.

Did Nero show any sense of the guilt of these murders ?

It is said that he felt remorse for the murder of his mother, but that it drove him to fresh acts of debauchery and crime. He banished his wife, Octavia, and married the wicked Poppæa Sabina, and, dismissing Burrus, he collected around him a number of unprincipled flatterers, who yielded in all things to his will.

Did Seneca remain at Nero's court ?

No ; finding himself unable to prevent the crimes of his pupil, he retired with a large fortune, which he had accumulated during his residence at the court, and which excited the Emperor's covetousness.

What terrible event befel the city of Rome during the reign of Nero ?

A fire raged for six days, and destroyed the

greater part of the city. It has been thought by many that Nero himself was the author of the conflagration, and there is no doubt that he ruthlessly forbade any attempt to quench the flames, and delighted in the scene, which he watched in safety from the high tower where he had stationed himself.

Whom did Nero accuse of having been the cause of this disaster ?

The Christians, who, in consequence, endured a savage persecution. Some were crucified, others devoured by wild beasts, and others clothed in garments covered with pitch, and burnt alive ; while Nero amused himself with watching their sufferings from his palace garden.

Which of the Apostles are believed to have suffered in Nero's persecution ?

St. Peter and St. Paul, A.D. 64. St. Paul was beheaded, and St. Peter crucified with his head downwards ; a death which he chose as being unworthy to suffer like his Divine Master.

Was the city of Rome lastingly injured by the fire ?

No ; it was speedily restored to more than its former splendour. Nero's golden palace, which he erected on the Palatine hill, was a building of almost fabulous magnificence. Parks and lakes were contained within its walls ; a colossal statue of the Emperor, 120 feet in height, stood at the entrance. The walls were adorned with silver, gold, and precious stones, and the roof of the principal hall, which was circular in form, was made to revolve in imitation of the movements of the planets. The people, however, suffered very severely from the oppressive way in which the money for this extravagance was provided.

What formidable conspiracy threatened Nero soon after the burning of Rome ?

That of Calpurnius Piso, A.D. 65. It was speedily discovered, and Piso suffered death together with Seneca, his nephew the poet Lucan, and many others. Seneca, however, appears to have taken no part in the plot.

What were the chief crimes and follies of which Nero was guilty besides those already named ?

He caused the death of his wife Poppæa by a blow given her in a fit of anger, and put to death Antonia, the daughter of Claudius, who had refused to marry him. In A.D. 67 he made himself an object of universal contempt by the follies which he committed in Greece, where he exhibited himself as an actor in the public theatre and sought applause for the most puerile display.

What wars were carried on during the reign of Nero ?

One with the Parthians, who succeeded in obtaining possession of the province of Armenia ; and another in Britain, when Boadicea, queen of the Iceni (the tribes who inhabited Norfolk and Suffolk), raised and maintained a brave resistance, which ended at last in her defeat by the Roman governor, Paulinus, and her death by her own hand. There was also a third war in Judea which was conducted by Vespasian and his son Titus.

How was the reign of Nero ended ?

An insurrection broke out in Gaul, when it was proposed to proclaim as emperor, Galba, the governor of Spain. The Prætorian guards at Rome confirmed the appointment, and Nero, seeing that his cause was hopeless, fled from Rome and destroyed himself, A.D. 68, in the 32nd year of his age.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

GALBA, OTHO, VITELLIUS AND VESPASIAN.

(A.D. 68-79.)

Was Galba long allowed to retain the throne ?

No ; the soldiers who had elected him were displeased by what they considered his want of liberality, especially by his refusal to pay the Praetorian guards a promised sum of money. An insurrection broke out, and he was murdered in the Forum A.D. 69, after a reign of only a few months.

Who succeeded Galba ?

Otho, who had headed the insurrection against Galba from disappointment at finding that he was not adopted by him as his heir. He was proclaimed Emperor by the soldiers at Rome.

Was any opposition made to the succession of Otho ?

Yes; the legions in Germany, having been bribed, determined to make their general, Vitellius, emperor instead of Otho.

What was the result of the opposition ?

Vitellius crossed the Alps, and a great battle was fought between the rival claimants of the throne. Otho was defeated, and put an end to his own life, after a reign which lasted only three months.

Did Vitellius prove a good ruler ?

No; he spent his time in gluttony and drinking. The best point in his government was the moderation which he showed in his treatment of his enemies.

How long did the reign of Vitellius last, and what brought it to a close ?

It lasted little more than eight months, and was

brought to a close by the election of another emperor, Vespasian, who was then carrying on a war in Judea. A short contest followed, in which Vitellius was murdered by his soldiers, A.D. 70. His head was carried about Rome and his body thrown into the Tiber.

How was the war in Judea prosecuted after the departure of Vespasian?

Vespasian left his son Titus as commander of the army, and at the time of the Passover, when the city was filled to overflowing, Titus proceeded to besiege Jerusalem.

What striking circumstances marked the taking of Jerusalem?

After a siege of several months, during which the inhabitants endured the utmost horrors, the city was entered by the Roman troops on the 2nd of September, A.D. 70. The Jews defended themselves in and around the temple, which caught fire from a brand thrown into an adjacent building and was burnt to the ground, notwithstanding the desire of Titus to save the sacred building from the flames. The Roman ensigns were set up over the eastern gate, while sacrifices to false gods were offered up within the sacred courts. The city was then rased by the plough, so that, according to our Blessed Lord's prophecy, not one stone remained upon another.

What was the fate of the Jews who survived the siege?

Many of them were carried captive to Rome by Titus, and were forced to assist in building a triumphal arch commemorating the destruction of their nation, and which still stands at Rome, bearing the name of Titus. They were also employed in the completion of the Coliseum, the most gigantic amphitheatre that the world has ever seen. At length they were dispersed among all nations, and

the prophecy concerning them has ever since been literally fulfilled.

From whom do we derive our knowledge of the siege of Jerusalem?

From Josephus, a Jewish historian, who was taken prisoner by the Romans, and afterwards became the secretary of Titus.

When did Vespasian arrive in Rome?

Not till A.D. 70; the government in the meantime was carried on by his son Domitian and Mucianus, who had once been governor in Syria.

Was the government of Vespasian beneficial to the Romans?

Yes; he revived discipline among the soldiers, restored the right administration of justice, expelled unworthy members from the senate, and elected in their stead noted men from the provinces. He employed his people in the erection of public buildings; and, above all, he set an example in his own person of moderation and simplicity of life.

What celebrated governor of Britain was appointed in the reign of Vespasian?

Agricola, the father-in-law of Tacitus, the historian, who has left us an account of his life and times.

How did Agricola rule in Britain?

By his great justice, firmness, and moderation he succeeded in winning the favour of the natives, while he increased his country's conquests and established the Roman dominion beyond the Forth.

When did Vespasian die?

A.D. 79. On feeling his end drawing near, he said that an emperor should die standing, and in that attitude he actually did expire, at the age of seventy. He had reigned with wisdom and prudence for nine years.

CHAPTER XXXV.

TITUS, DOMITIAN, NERVA AND TRAJAN.

(A.D. 79-117.)

Who was the successor of Vespasian ?

His son Titus, who had for some time been associated with his father in the government.

Was the character of Titus equal to that of his father ?

Yes ; he won not the respect alone but the affection of his people, and received the title of 'the love and delight of mankind.'

In what especial instances did Titus show his benevolent care for his people ?

In the year of his accession a great eruption of Mount Vesuvius took place and destroyed the populous cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii, and the Emperor made the greatest possible efforts to repair the ruined towns. At the beginning of the next year a great fire at Rome destroyed many public buildings, and Titus declared that he should consider the loss his own, and sold even the decorations of his palace to raise the money ; and he was equally disinterested and energetic when a pestilence followed upon the eruption of Vesuvius.

What learned man perished in the eruption of Vesuvius ?

Pliny the naturalist, known as the Elder Pliny. He lost his life by venturing too near the scene of the eruption. The account of the catastrophe has been handed down to us in the letters of his nephew, Pliny the Younger, to Tacitus the historian.

Did Rome long enjoy the good government of Titus ?

No ; the reign of Titus lasted but for two years.

He died A.D. 81, and it has been thought that his end was hastened by poison administered at the instigation of his brother, Domitian, who succeeded him.

What was the character and government of Domitian?

His character was weak and self-indulgent, vain and cruel. After an unsuccessful war in Dacia, he became a despotic tyrant, and exiled or put to a death of torture many of the noblest of his subjects, Agricola, the governor of Britain, being amongst his victims. Yet during the first few years of his reign he kept the governors of the provinces under strict discipline, and enacted several useful laws.

What were the circumstances of Domitian's death?

Having threatened the life of his wife Domitia, she caused him to be murdered instead, and he was stabbed by one of her freedmen A.D. 96.

Was there any persecution of the Christians in the reign of Domitian?

It is not quite certain. The Christians as well as the Jews probably suffered greatly from the strictness with which the tribute from the Jews was exacted, and this may have given rise to the belief in an actual persecution.

Who was elected Emperor upon the death of Domitian?

Nerva, A.D. 96. He was an aged senator famed for his gentleness and mercy, and was chosen both by the soldiers and the people.

Did the government of Nerva effect any improvement in the condition of the empire?

Yes; it at once restored tranquillity, for Nerva stopped proceedings against the persons who had been accused of treason, and allowed many exiles to return to Rome. Spies and informers were severely punished by him.

What oath did Nerva take at the beginning of his reign ?

He swore that he would put no senator to death, and he kept this oath even when a conspiracy was formed against his own life.

What were the defects of Nerva's character ?

He was wanting in energy and power, and this encouraged the spirit of disobedience in the Prætorian guards.

Whom did Nerva appoint as his heir ?

Ulpius Trajan, the general of the army in Germany, a man whose character was universally respected.

How long did Nerva reign ?

Not two years. He died suddenly on the 27th of January, A.D. 98, at the age of sixty-five, leaving Trajan to continue the work of reformation which he had so wisely begun.

Was Trajan a native of Rome ?

No ; he was a Spaniard, born in the neighbourhood of Seville, and was the first provincial who reigned at Rome, where he arrived A.D. 99.

Give some instances of the improvements and good government of Trajan.

He established a school for the education of the poor, instituted a public library, and added to the city a new Forum and many stately buildings. The turbulent were punished by him and spies exiled.

What was the character of Trajan's household ?

It was conducted with decorum and simplicity ; and his wife, Plotina, and his sister, Marciana, raised the moral tone among their countrywomen by the dignified example which they set before them.

Against whom did Trajan carry on a war during the greater part of his reign ?

Against the Dacians. Domitian had made a humiliating peace with them, and this stain upon the Roman arms Trajan desired to efface.

How long did the Dacian war last ?

It lasted, with a short interval of peace, for six years, at the end of which time Dacia, including the modern Wallachia and Transylvania, became a Roman province.

What was Trajan's next war ?

A war with the Parthians, whom he subdued, rescuing from their hands the kingdom of Armenia, which he added to the provinces of Rome.

Did Trajan return to Rome after his Parthian victories ?

No ; he was taken ill, and being anxious to return to his capital, he left his troops under the command of his nephew, Hadrian, and set out on his homeward journey ; but before he could reach Italy he died at Silenus, in Cilicia, A.D. 117.

Where was he buried ?

His body being burnt, the ashes were taken to Rome, in a golden urn, and buried under the column which was raised to commemorate his victories, and which still stands in the Forum that bears his name.

What evidence have we of the way in which the Christians were treated in the reign of Trajan ?

A correspondence has been handed down to us between the Emperor and the Younger Pliny. The latter refers to the Christians as a moral people of a perverse superstition, and asks the advice of Trajan as to his conduct towards them. Trajan, in reply, counsels a simple toleration in all cases not directly brought before him by the magistrates.

What celebrated Roman writers flourished in the reign of Trajan ?

Tacitus, the historian ; Plutarch, the biographer ; Suetonius, who wrote the lives of the twelve Cæsars, from Julius Cæsar to Domitian ; and Pliny the Younger, whose chief work is his letters. Pliny was also famed for his eloquence.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

HADRIAN, ANTONINUS PIUS, MARCUS AURELIUS.

(A.D. 117-180.)

Who was called upon to succeed Trajan ?

P. Ælius Hadrian, who was at Antioch when the tidings of Trajan's death reached him. He pretended that he had been adopted by Trajan, and, having been proclaimed Emperor by the Roman army in Syria, the Senate at Rome confirmed the election. Hadrian was less beloved than his predecessor, but he governed with much wisdom.

What was his chief employment ?

Travelling. He visited many of the Roman provinces ; among them Gaul, Germany, Britain, Greece, and the provinces of Asia and Egypt, and in each country he strove to leave behind him some permanent memorial of his care for its interests.

What did Hadrian do for the good of Britain ?

He secured the northern frontier against the invasion of the Scots by building the famous wall between the mouth of the Solway and the Tyne. Parts of this wall are still standing.

What other public works did he set on foot ?

He founded a scientific institution at Rome, called the Athenæum. He built aqueducts and formed harbours in various parts of his dominions. He was noted also for the architectural improvements which he planned during his travels, especially those at Athens. His mausoleum at Rome (now known as the Castle of St. Angelo) is among the most conspicuous of the ancient buildings still to be *seen in that city.*

What celebrated men lived during the reign of Hadrian?

Salvius Julianus, who, by the Emperor's command, compiled a wise code of laws, called the Edicts of the Prætors, founded on amendments which from time to time had been made by successive Prætors in the application of the existing code of Rome ; Juvenal, the famous satirist ; Claudius Ptolemy, one of the most ancient authorities upon astronomy and geography ; and the early Christian writer, Justin Martyr, who suffered for his faith during the reign of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius.

What was the condition of Jerusalem and the Jews generally, in the reign of Hadrian?

Hadrian commanded a new city to be built on the site of the ancient Jerusalem. This he made a Roman colony, under the name of *Ælia Capitolina*. The Jews fiercely resisted the command, and carried on a desperate struggle with the Roman power until the year 136, when they were at length subdued, the country being reduced nearly to a wilderness. From this time they were forbidden to dwell in or near Jerusalem, and many were dispersed as slaves in foreign countries.

How long did Hadrian reign?

About twenty-one years. The latter part of his life, which was marked by ill-health and acts of suspicion and cruelty, was spent in retirement. He died at *Baiæ*, on the Bay of Naples, A.D. 138.

By whom was Hadrian succeeded?

By his adopted heir, Antoninus Pius ; the epithet Pius, or dutifully affectionate, being bestowed upon him by the Senate on account of the respect with which he treated the memory of Hadrian.

Was Hadrian justified in his choice of Antoninus as successor?

Yes ; Antoninus had already shown great ability in the high trusts to which he had been appointed, and his reign, which was one of entire peace, was marked by constant effort for the good of his subjects. Careful in the discharge of his own religious observances, Antoninus was tolerant of the Christians, who enjoyed rest from persecution.

Did any important events mark the reign of Antoninus ?

No ; his life, after his accession to the throne, was one of peace, and he died, regretted and beloved by all, A.D. 161.

By whom was Antoninus Pius succeeded ?

By his adopted son, Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, who was also the husband of Faustina, the daughter of Antoninus Pius.

What were the characteristics of Marcus Aurelius ?

He had shown from childhood a thoughtful and studious disposition. When only twelve years of age he assumed the dress and followed the teaching of the philosophical sect known as that of the Stoics, who professed to practise the sternest self-denial, and had thus learnt to be severe towards himself whilst he was lenient in his judgment of others. His opinions and feelings are best shown by a book of meditations written by himself.

Who were associated with Marcus Aurelius in the government ?

Lucius Verus, who, like Aurelius, had been adopted by Hadrian ; but whose indolence and excesses proved that Hadrian had been greatly deceived in him.

What is the chief blot upon the reign of Marcus Aurelius ?

The persecution of the Christians which he permitted upon two occasions, first in 166 and afterwards in 177 A.D.

What noted bishops suffered in these persecutions ?

Polycarp, the disciple of St. John, thought to be the Angel of the Church of Smyrna referred to in the Book of Revelation ; and Irenæus, Bishop of Lyons and the disciple of Polycarp. Polycarp was martyred in 166 A.D., and Irenæus shared the same fate in 177 A.D.

What was the reply of Polycarp when exhorted to save himself by reviling the name of Christ ?

‘Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me wrong. How then can I revile my King and my Saviour?’

Did Verus live as long as Marcus Aurelius ?

No ; he died in 169, having been engaged for four years of his reign in carrying on a war in the East.

What was the principal war in which Marcus Aurelius was personally engaged ?

A war against the German and Sarmatian tribes, which began before the death of Verus.

What is said to have been a remarkable incident in this war ?

In the year 174 a great battle was fought upon the frozen Danube, with a tribe known as the Quadi. It was won by the Romans, after their cause had seemed well nigh hopeless, by the aid of a violent storm, which aided them in the discomfiture of the barbarians. The storm is said to have been owing to the prayers of a legion chiefly composed of Christians ; and it is further stated that from thenceforth this body of troops was called the ‘Thundering Legion.’ There has, however, been much controversy upon this subject.

Where did Marcus Aurelius die ?

Either at Vindobona (the modern Vienna) or at Sirmium. His death, which closes the list of the

good Emperors who from A.D. 96 had been the glory of their country, took place, in the fifty-ninth year of his age, A.D. 180.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

COMMODUS, PERTINAX, DIDIUS, AND SEPTIMIUS
SEVERUS.

(A.D. 180-211.)

Had Marcus Aurelius adopted an heir ?

No ; he was succeeded by his unworthy son, Commodus, a youth of a weak and low nature, who seemed incapable of appreciating or attempting to follow the noble example of his father.

How was the Government carried on by Commodus ?

He at first trusted it to the wise Ministers who had surrounded him on his accession ; but, at the end of about three years, his suspicious nature was aroused by the discovery of a plot against his life, which originated with his own sister, but which he unjustly attributed to the Senate. From thenceforth the members of that body became the objects of his terror and cruel revenge.

What were the favourite amusements of Commodus ?

Possessed of amazing strength, he delighted in its exercise and exhibition. He fought with beasts and with gladiators in the public amphitheatre, and styled himself the Roman Hercules.

How was the infamous career of Commodus at last cut short ?

His cruelty brought its own punishment. A conspiracy was formed among those who had been *his adherents*. His death was first attempted by

poison, but this being found too slow he was strangled A.D. 192.

Who was chosen to succeed to the throne ?

Pertinax, a man of obscure birth, but of acknowledged merit.

Was Pertinax able to reform the government ?

No ; it was now in such a condition that his virtues were his danger. The Prætorian guards feared a revival of the ancient discipline, and rebelled against him, and after a reign of only a few weeks he was murdered.

How was the succession to the throne decided, after the death of Pertinax ?

The Empire was set up for public sale ; and Didius Julianus was elected, having promised to each soldier a sum exceeding £200.

Was Didius allowed to retain his position unopposed ?

No ; two rival claimants arose, chosen by the soldiers in different parts of the Empire. One of these, Septimius Severus, was approved by the Senate, and Didius proposed to share the throne with him. This, however, was not permitted, and Didius was deposed and put to death A.D. 193.

Was Severus allowed to assume the empire without opposition ?

No ; the Roman legions in the East had elected another emperor, Niger, whom Severus fought against, defeated, and put to death, after which he was obliged to proceed to Gaul to oppose Clodius Albinus, Governor of Britain, a third pretender to the Imperial dignity.

What was the character of Albinus ?

He was a man of subtle disposition, who seems to have courted popularity by affecting a fear of despotism, and a love of the ancient republican forms.

How had Severus tried to secure himself from the pretensions of Albinus?

By making him Cæsar, or heir to the throne—this title being now used to distinguish those who were chosen to succeed to the Empire. Albinus, however, acted in a way to excite the suspicions of Severus, who turned his arms against him, and he was defeated and killed in Gaul, A. D. 197.

How did Severus seek to exercise his power for the benefit of Rome, when it was firmly established?

He gave the strictest attention to his new duties. Justice was impartially administered; the poor were relieved by a distribution of corn and provisions; peace was restored, and public monuments attested the gratitude and prosperity of the colonies.

What mistake did Severus commit in his government?

He relied too much on the increased strength and discipline of the Prætorian guards, by whose means he exercised a kind of military despotism, to the almost entire exclusion of the Senate, whom he oppressed.

What disturbances in Britain were quelled by Severus?

The Caledonians had made inroads from the north, and Severus, glad of an excuse to withdraw his young sons, Caracalla and Geta, from Rome, proceeded to Britain in person, and speedily repelled the invasion.

Did Severus ever return to Italy?

No; he remained two years in Britain, during which he erected the celebrated wall which bore his name, to protect the Britons from the inroads of the Caledonians. He died at Eboracum (or York), A. D. 211, in the eighteenth year of his reign.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

CARACALLA AND GETA, MACRINUS, ELAGABALUS,
ALEXANDER SEVERUS.

(A.D. 211-235.)

What arrangement had Septimius Severus made for the succession?

Before his death, he had recommended his two sons, Caracalla and Geta, to the army, and both were proclaimed emperors conjointly; but the young princes were implacable enemies, and it was therefore proposed to divide the Empire between them.

Was Caracalla the real name of the eldest son of Severus?

No; it was only a nick-name derived from a long tunic which he wore after he became Emperor. His legal name was Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, and as such it appears on his coins.

Did the two Emperors long reign jointly?

No; Caracalla, anxious to secure the Government to himself, caused his brother to be murdered. This crime was followed by the execution of many of the most distinguished men of the State, who were suspected of having favoured Geta.

What illustrious name stands in the list of his victims?

That of Papinian, the wise and faithful minister of Septimius Severus, who bravely refused to comply with the command of Caracalla, to write a defence of the murder of his brother.

In what way did the wide extent of the Roman Empire assist the cruelty of the wicked Emperors?

The extent of the Empire rendered it almost impossible to escape from them, for nearly all the civilised world was open to their tyrann;

Mention a special instance of Caracalla's cruelty?

On one occasion, whilst he was at Alexandria, he ordered a general slaughter of the inhabitants to avenge some pleasantries in which they had indulged against himself and his mother.

How was Caracalla's career of crime at length arrested?

He was murdered by Macrinus, one of the prefects of the Prætorian guards, near Edessa, A.D. 217.

Was Caracalla succeeded by one of his own family?

Not immediately. Macrinus reigned for about a year, when he also was murdered by his soldiers, who were induced by Moesa, the sister-in-law of Septimius Severus, to place her grandson, Elagabalus, on the vacant throne.

*Why was the new Emperor called Elagabalus? **

Because he had been, as the name signifies, a priest of the sun. He was officiating in this capacity at Emesa when he was elected Emperor.

How did Elagabalus acquit himself of his duties as Emperor?

He exhibited every kind of folly and extravagance, and introduced at Rome the Syrian worship of the sun, which was even more corrupting and debasing than any of the rites hitherto practised in the heathen temples. The disgust which he inspired caused him and his mother to be put to death, A.D. 222.

Who had been acknowledged as heir to the empire during the lifetime of Elagabalus?

His cousin, the young Alexander Severus, who had received the title of Cæsar. Alexander was a virtuous and gentle prince, and his reign was an earnest but unavailing struggle to reform the cor-

* This name is sometimes written Heliogabalus.

ruptions of his time, and to check the dissensions which threatened the peace of the empire abroad as well as at home.

What was the chief foreign war in which Alexander Severus engaged?

A successful war in the east against Artaxerxes, one of the old royal family of Persia, who had obtained possession of the throne of Parthia, and was endeavouring to extend his dominions.

What was his next warlike undertaking, and what was its result?

He undertook an expedition against the Germans, who were making incursions into Gaul; but he was slain at Mayence, A. D. 235, by his own soldiers, who construed his lenity and moderation into want of power.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

FROM MAXIMIN TO AURELIAN.

(A. D. 235–275.)

Who succeeded Alexander Severus?

Maximin was elected by the legions in Gaul. He was a Thracian of Gothic descent and of humble origin, and was remarkable for his gigantic size and prodigious strength; according to tradition his thumb was the size of a woman's waist, and it is said that he could break the leg of a horse with a kick.

What was the result of his election to the empire?

It produced a period of great discord and confusion. Maximin was quickly slain by his own soldiers, and in the course of the next twenty years twelve emperors were raised to the throne.

Mention the names of the twelve successors of Maximin.

Papienus and Balbinus ; Gordian, grandson of the elder Gordian, who had been proclaimed emperor and destroyed himself during the lifetime of Maximin ; Philip, the Arabian ; Decius, Gallus, Æmilianus, Valerian, Galienus, Claudius II., and Aurelian.

Were the Christians persecuted by any of these Emperors ?

Yes ; in 249 A.D. Decius issued an edict by which the Christians were ordered to sacrifice to false gods, and though the church at that time had fallen into a state of carelessness, which gave small promise of endurance, many brave sufferers were added to the noble army of martyrs.

Who was the most important person who suffered death in the Decian persecution ?

Alexander, Bishop of Jerusalem. Origen, some of whose writings have come down to us, also endured torture ; and many fled in consternation, fearing to deny the faith.

When did the next severe Christian persecution take place ?

In the reign of Valerian, who came to the throne in 253. St. Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, suffered at this time.

For what warlike enterprise was the reign of Valerian remarkable ?

For a war with Sapor, King of Persia, begun A.D. 258. Valerian, who was an energetic, and in many respects a wise sovereign, entered Mesopotamia, but was taken prisoner at Edessa.

How was Valerian treated whilst in captivity ?

He was subjected to the greatest cruelty and degradation which Eastern despotism could invent. Sapor used him as a footstool when mounting his

horse, and after Valerian's death, which occurred A.D. 260, whilst he was still a captive, his skin was stuffed and preserved as a trophy by his enemy.

What was the character of the reign of Aurelian?

It was a time of renewed prosperity in Rome. Many public works of utility were begun ; peace with the Goths was established, and a successful war carried on against Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra (anciently Tadmor in the desert).

What is known of the history of Palmyra?

Very little, until the government of Zenobia and her husband, Odenatus, who endeavoured to throw off all subjection to Rome, and extend their dominion over Syria, which included the Roman provinces of Asia and Egypt. This led to the war.

What was the fate of Zenobia?

She was taken prisoner and carried to Rome, where she appeared as a captive in the triumph of Aurelian.

What distinguished philosopher and grammarian lived at Zenobia's court?

Longinus, whose information was so great that he has been called a living library and a walking museum. He was put to death by Aurelian.

What was the fate of Aurelian?

He was killed by some of his officers, instigated by the Emperor's private secretary, who had betrayed his trust, and, fearful of punishment, organised the conspiracy A.D. 275.

CHAPTER XL.

FROM CLAUDIUS TACITUS TO CONSTANTINE THE GREAT.

(A.D. 275-337.)

Who were Aurelian's immediate successors?

Claudius Tacitus, an old man of high character, who was followed by Florian. Neither of these emperors reigned more than a few months, and Probus, the commander of the army in the east, was then raised to the throne, A.D. 276.

What events distinguish the reign of Probus.

The defeat of the barbarians on the frontiers of the vast empire, and the crushing of several insurrections ; after which Probus, who is regarded as one of the greatest and best of the Roman emperors, employed his subjects in building, draining, and other useful works.

Was Probus popular with his soldiers?

No ; they complained of his occupying them laboriously, and at length they rose in mutiny and murdered him, A.D. 282.

By whom was Probus succeeded?

By Carus, a general, who reigned for a year, associating with him his son Carinus. Carus was struck dead by lightning A.D. 283. Carinus was then recognised as Emperor, conjointly with his brother Numerianus, who, however, lived but a few months.

Was the government of Carinus accepted without opposition?

No ; Diocletian, prefect of the Prætorian guards, was elected by the army, and a battle ensued in which Carinus was slain just as he had gained the victory, A.D. 285.

Did Diocletian reign alone :

No ; he first associated with himself Maximian, to whom he entrusted the war against the German tribes. He afterwards delegated a share of the government to Galerius, who ruled in Thrace and the Danubian Provinces, and to Constantius Chlorus, who governed Gaul, Spain, Mauritania, and Britain. The chief authority, however, remained always in the hands of the despotic Diocletian.

What distinction was made in the titles of these several rulers ?

Diocletian and Maximian received the title of Augustus, and Galerius and Constantius Chlorus that of Cæsar.

What measures were taken by Diocletian to prevent the spread of Christianity ?

A command was issued to destroy the Christian churches, and in A.D. 303 a cruel persecution was instituted. In the course of this reign St. Alban, the first British martyr of whom we read in history, suffered at Verulam, now called from him St. Alban's.

From whom have we received an account of this persecution ?

From Eusebius, the celebrated Church historian, who was living at this time.

How does he describe the sufferings of the martyrs ?

He says that they were burnt, drowned, beheaded, crucified, and put to death by the most cruel tortures. Yet in the extremest agonies of death, they sang psalms and songs of praise, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for their Saviour's sake. This was the last persecution.

What important events soon followed this persecution ?

Diocletian, weary of the anxiety caused by the enormous Empire, and the constant inroads of the barbarian tribes, abdicated the throne. Maximian followed his example, though reluctantly ;

and the two viceroys, Galerius and Constantius, then succeeded to the supreme power. Maximian afterwards attempted to resume his power, but finding his efforts fruitless, he hanged himself.

Were the sons of Galerius and Constantius chosen by their fathers as Cæsars or successors?

Not at first; but Constantine (generally known as Constantine the Great), the son of Constantius, refused to submit to be put aside, and on the death of his father, which happened at York A.D. 306, he assumed the title of Cæsar, and the government of the western provinces.

Was the son of Galerius acknowledged in like manner?

The Prætorian guards recognised him after some time as heir to the eastern portion of the empire, but both he and his father died in the following year, A.D. 311.

Was Galerius cruel to the Christians?

Yes; it was he who instigated the atrocities committed against them in the reign of Diocletian, and he was at all times their greatest enemy.

What most important event marks the period when Constantine held the title of Cæsar?

His conversion to Christianity. He had been brought up with some knowledge of the truth, as his mother, the Empress Helena, a British princess, was a Christian.

By whom have the details of the conversion of Constantine been handed down to us?

By Eusebius, who says that he heard the history from the lips of the Emperor himself, and that it was confirmed by an oath.

What are the circumstances related of the conversion of Constantine?

He was engaged in a war with Maxentius, the

son of Maximian, who, after the death of Constantius, had assumed the imperial power. Before the last decisive battle a vision appeared to him in his sleep, bidding him inscribe on the shields of his soldiers the monogram of the name of Christ ; and on the following day a luminous cross is stated to have been seen by him in the sky, with a Greek inscription, *By this conquer*. Constantine gained the battle, and from this time openly professed Christianity.

How was this conversion commemorated ?

By the Imperial standard of the *Labarum*, on the top of which was the sacred monogram.

Who shared the Empire with Constantine after the death of Galerius ?

Licinius, a Dacian peasant by birth, but the early friend and fellow-soldier of Galerius.

Were there any other emperors at this time ?

Yes ; Licinius divided the eastern portion of his Empire with a nephew of Galerius, named Maximin, but they soon quarrelled, and Licinius then defeated Maximin, and took the government of the East into his own hands, whilst Constantine reigned in the west.

How long did the joint sovereignty of Licinius and Constantine last ?

Between six and seven years ; during the greater part of which time they were carrying on a contest for the undivided sovereignty.

What was the fate of Licinius ?

He was taken prisoner by Constantine A.D. 323, and was put to death in the following year ; and Constantine then reigned alone.

How did Constantine divide his Empire ?

Into four parts called Prefectures. These were subdivided into political or civil divisions of Dioceses, Provinces, and *Parœciæ* or *Parishes*.

What ecclesiastical names are derived from these civil divisions of the Roman Empire ?

Those of Provinces, Dioceses, and Parishes.

What was the character of Constantine the Great ?

He appears to have been a vain and ambitious man, and cruel even to his relatives and friends, and his Christianity was apparently a mere profession without influence upon his heart. He delayed his baptism till he was on his death-bed, fearing lest by his after conduct he should forfeit the grace given in that sacrament.

What heresy was widely spread in the Church about this period ?

The Arian heresy, so called from Arius, an Alexandrian presbyter, who taught false doctrine as to the Divinity of our Blessed Lord.

Who were the chief opponents of Arius ?

Alexander, bishop of Alexandria, and his successor Athanasius, one of the most celebrated of the Christian fathers.

How was the Arian heresy condemned ?

By the decision of the famous Council held at Nicæa, in Asia Minor, A.D. 325.

By whose order was the Council of Nicæa assembled ?

By the order of Constantine ; but although the Emperor concurred in the decision which condemned the heresy, he secretly favoured Arius and openly persecuted Athanasius.

What great change was made in this reign with regard to the capital of the Empire ?

The Emperor removed it from Rome to Byzantium, which he called Constantinople, or the city of Constantine, after his own name.

How was the domestic life of Constantine disturbed in his latter days ?

He was induced by his wife Fausta to put to

From the Sons of Constantine to Valens. 137

death his eldest son Crispus, on a doubtful charge of treason.

Where did Constantine the Great die ?

At Nicomedia, A.D. 337, while preparing for a war against the Persians.

CHAPTER XLI.

FROM THE SONS OF CONSTANTINE TO VALENS.

(A.D. 337-378.)

Who were the heirs and successors of Constantine ?

Constantine bequeathed his dominions to his three sons, Constantine II., Constantius, and Constans.

How was the Empire divided between them ?

Gaul, Britain, and Spain were allotted to Constantine II. ; the East was given to Constantius ; and Illyricum, Italy, and Africa were bestowed on Constans. The kingdoms of Armenia and Pontus were given to the two nephews of Constantine.

Give a slight sketch of the career of Constantine II.

He began his reign by joining with his brothers in the murder of the other members of the Imperial family ; only two, Gallus and Julianus, a child, escaping the massacre. Discontented with his share in the Empire, Constantine II. made war upon his brother Constans. He was slain in battle near Aquileia.

What was the subsequent history of Constans ?

He carried on a contest with Magnentius, a Frank, who disputed his throne in Italy ; and having by his vices aroused the indignation of the people, he was murdered in the neighbourhood of the Pyrenees.

What was the fate of Magnentius ?

He was subsequently defeated by Constantius, and destroyed himself. Constantius was thus left sole Emperor.

To whom did Constantius entrust the government of Gaul ?

To Julian, the youth who, with his brother Gallus, had escaped the general massacre of his relations after the death of Constantine.

With what feelings did Constantius regard Julian ?

With jealousy and suspicion, aroused by his success and talent. War must have broken out between them had it not been arrested by the death of Constantius A.D. 361.

Who succeeded to the throne ?

Julian, who had already been proclaimed Emperor at Paris.

By what surname is Julian known in history ?

He is called the Apostate, because, having been brought up in the Christian faith, he afterwards sought to restore the ancient Paganism. Julian professed to be tolerant of Christianity, but the course of his government was decidedly unfavourable to it. He himself was inclined to Greek asceticism.

When did Julian die ?

A.D. 363, after a campaign against the Persians, in which, notwithstanding the gaining of a great victory at Ctesiphon, his army suffered severely in its retreat.

What is the story told us of his death-bed ?

It is said that, in his last moments, recognising the rapid progress of Christianity, which had mocked his efforts to arrest it, he threw up his hands, exclaiming, 'Galilean, thou hast conquered,' and then fell back and expired.

Give a slight sketch of the character and writings of Julian ?

He was energetic in the government of his kingdom and upright in his conduct as a man towards his fellows. His style of writing was remarkably pure and classical. He left among other works a series of letters intended for publication, of great historical importance.

Who succeeded Julian the Apostate?

Jovian, who was elected during the retreat from the Persian campaign A.D. 363, but proved himself so unequal to his position as general, that the Romans were forced to conclude a peace by which the Persians recovered their lost provinces beyond the Tigris.

How did Jovian's reign affect the cause of Christianity?

Although he reigned only one year, yet during this short time the Christians recovered their position in the Empire.

Who was appointed to succeed Jovian?

Valentinian, a native of Pannonia, who became Emperor of the West A.D. 364, and associated with himself his brother Valens as Emperor of the East.

What was the character of Valentinian?

He was a wise ruler, but a man of irritable temper, and died from the effects of a violent fit of passion A.D. 378.

What was the chief characteristic of his reign?

It was marked by constant wars with the barbarian tribes in various portions of the Empire. Britain was at this time harassed by the Picts and Scots.

What Asiatic race migrated about this period from Asia?

The Huns, a Mongol people of singularly uncouth appearance. They had already proved most formidable enemies to their neighbours the Chinese, who had built a great wall (1,500 miles in length)

to protect themselves against their ravages. In 375 A.D. they crossed the Volga and the Sea of Azoph, and attacked the Goths settled in the neighbouring provinces.

How were the Goths divided ?

Into the Ostrogoths, or Eastern Goths, who dwelt near the coasts of the Black Sea ; and the Visigoths, or Western Goths, who had settled upon the banks of the Danube. Both tribes suffered from the Huns.

Where did the Visigoths seek refuge from the Huns ?

A portion of the Visigoths sought in despair the protection of the Emperor Valens, who permitted them to settle in Thrace, the adjoining province.

Were the Goths honourably dealt with by the Romans ?

No ; the sufferings inflicted on them at length roused a rebellion. They were joined by the Huns and other barbarians, and the forces of the Empire were defeated in a battle near Adrianople A.D. 378.

What is known of the fate of Valens ?

Nothing certain. He was not seen after the battle of Adrianople, and is thought by some to have died upon the field, and by others to have been burnt to death in the cottage of a peasant, which had been given to the flames by the barbarians, ignorant that the Emperor was in it.

What well-known bishop was favoured and encouraged during the reign of Valens ?

The Arian Bishop Ulphilas, who first translated the Bible into the Gothic language. This Bible is still to be seen at Upsala in Sweden.

CHAPTER XLII.

FROM THEODOSIUS TO ARCADIUS AND HONORIUS.

(A.D. 378-423.)

To whom was the government of the East entrusted after the death of Valens?

To the Spaniard, Theodosius. He was raised to the rank of joint-Emperor by Gratian, the son of Valentinian, A.D. 378.

What was the character of Theodosius?

His temper was fiery and uncertain, and he was at times guilty of great cruelty, but he was also candid and sincere, and open to rebuke.

Give an instance in which he exhibited his cruelty.

While Theodosius was at Milan, in A.D. 390, an Imperial officer and several of his troops were murdered in a riot at Thessalonica. In revenge for this outrage the Emperor sent an army of barbarians to Thessalonica, and the inhabitants having been invited to the games of the circus, a massacre of at least 7,000 unarmed citizens ensued.

How did Theodosius afterwards show his candour?

St. Ambrose, Archbishop of Milan, bravely represented to him his crime, and refused to admit him into the great church at Milan. The Emperor, conscience stricken, humbled himself, and laying aside the insignia of royal power, made public confession and asked for pardon before the congregation. After eight months he was restored to communion with the Church.

What efforts did Theodosius make to uphold the Catholic or orthodox faith?

He persecuted the Arians as well as the Pagans. Heathen worship was forbidden under the several

penalties, and death was even sometimes inflicted on its votaries.

What was the condition of Britain at this time ?

Maximus, a Roman soldier, took advantage of the disturbed state of the Empire to assert an independent authority. He was proclaimed Emperor in Britain, and was able for some little time to maintain his power. He was ultimately put to death by order of Theodosius.

Did the Romans thenceforth preserve their authority in Britain ?

No : the Roman troops were withdrawn from the island, as their assistance was needed against the barbarians in other parts of the vast Empire. Thus Britain was left a prey to the incursions of the Picts and Scots.

Where did Theodosius die ?

At Milan, A.D. 395.

How was the Empire divided after the death of Theodosius ?

Between his two sons, Arcadius and Honorius—the former being Emperor of the East and the latter of the West.

Which of the two Empires held ascendancy over the other ?

The Eastern ; for the Western Empire rapidly declined, and it was to the interest of Constantinople to divert the attacks of the barbarians as much as possible towards the older and more vulnerable city of Rome, which was still the capital of the west.

Was any effort made to bind together again the disunited Empire ?

Yes ; Stilicho, a Vandal officer, the guardian of Honorius, attempted to re-unite the rival thrones, but in vain.

From what invasion did the Western Empire next suffer ?

From the invasion of Alaric, a formidable leader of the Goths, who had previously desolated parts of Greece. He entered Italy A.D. 402. Honorius purchased his departure by the cession of part of Illyricum, and the promise of a yearly tribute.

What other difficulties disturbed the reign of Honorius?

German hordes poured southwards, whilst Constantine, a common soldier, caused himself to be proclaimed Emperor in Britain.

Did Alaric again invade Italy during the reign of Honorius?

Yes; the tribute promised by Honorius was not paid, and in consequence the barbarian leader advanced to the frontiers of Italy.

What counsel was given to Honorius on this occasion?

Stilicho, the only person who seems to have possessed principle and energy at the Court of Honorius, advised the payment of the tribute, but by order of the Emperor he was killed as a traitor to his country, and many other persons were cruelly put to death about the same time.

What was the success of Alaric?

He proceeded to Rome and took the city A.D. 409, proclaiming as Emperor, Attalus, whom he subsequently deposed.

Did Alaric ever besiege Rome again?

Yes; A.D. 410, after a quarrel with Honorius, whom he had in vain endeavoured to conciliate. The capital was then mercilessly plundered by the Goths, and a great part of it given to the flames.

How did Honorius spend his time during these terrible calamities?

He remained inactive at Ravenna, which was the residence of several of the Western Emperors, and there he died A.D. 423, when Joannes, his secretary, usurped the throne.

CHAPTER XLIII.

VALENTINIAN III. AND ROMULUS AUGUSTULUS.

(A.D. 425-476.)

Who had succeeded Arcadius in the East ?

Theodosius II., who was a mere child at the time of his accession. He afterwards defeated Joannes, and raised Valentinian III. to the throne of the West.

What befell the province of Africa soon after the death of Honorius ?

Bonifacius, the governor, fearing treachery and distrust at home, invited help from the Vandals under Genseric. They, in consequence, entered the province of Africa, took possession of it, and created it an independent kingdom.

What illustrious Christian died in Africa about this time ?

St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo ; he was the friend of Bonifacius, and died while the Vandals were besieging Hippo.

Who was the next formidable enemy of Rome ?

Attila the Hun, to whom was given the name of the Scourge of God. He attacked both Empires, destroyed many towns on the Rhine, and defeated the King of the Burgundians.

How was Attila withstood ?

The Eastern Empire, under Theodosius, purchased peace at a heavy cost. The progress of Attila in the West was arrested by a great battle on the plains near Chalons, won by the Visigoth Theodoric, who was in alliance with the Romans, A.D. 451.

When did Attila again invade Italy ?

In A.D. 452, when he threatened Rome. An embassy led by the Bishop, Leo I., the bearer of rich presents, induced him to depart.

What were the circumstances of his death?

He died from the bursting of a blood-vessel, on the very day on which he had married a beautiful young girl named Hilda, A.D. 453.

What was the fate of Valentinian III.?

He was murdered. Maximin succeeded, and eight other Emperors followed in rapid succession.

What was now the condition of the Western Empire?

It was broken up by the invasions of Vandals, Goths, Burgundians, and Franks—the last remaining power of Rome in Gaul being destroyed by the Frankish king, Clovis, at the great battle of Soissons, A.D. 486.

What was the name and the fate of the last Western Emperor?

His name was Romulus Augustulus. He reigned for about a year, when he was forced to resign his power into the hands of Odoacer, chief of the Heruli, a German tribe. On account of his youth Odoacer spared his life, permitting him to end his days in peaceable retirement, A.D. 476.

What kingdom did Odoacer found?

He called himself King of Italy, but his power only lasted fourteen years.

By whom was the kingdom of the Heruli destroyed?

By Theodoric, King of the Ostrogoths, who entered Italy, defeated and murdered Odoacer, and succeeded in establishing an Ostrogothic kingdom, which was acknowledged even by the Emperors of the East.

Did the Roman Empire in the East continue to exist after the Western Empire had fallen?

Yes; it lasted, though with greatly diminished

power, for nearly 1,000 years longer. It was finally overthrown by the Ottoman Turks under their Sultan Mohammed II., who took Constantinople in A.D. 1453.

What was the political result of the breaking up of the Western Empire?

Independent kingdoms were established in Britain, Gaul, Spain, the South of Germany, and Italy, and by degrees the wild tribes imbibed the civilisation of the peoples they had conquered. Roman customs and language were adopted by them; and the most polished nations of modern Europe owe much of their advancement to the greatness of Rome in the days when her rule was extended over the uncultivated lands she had invaded.

What was the moral and religious result?

The barbarians infused their own vigour into the degenerate and luxurious Romans, whilst by their conversion to Christianity they received a new and higher principle of life themselves.

LIST OF DATES.

	B.C.
Assumed date of the foundation of Rome	753
Numa Pompilius	715
Tullus Hostilius	672
Ancus Martius	640
Lucius Tarquinius Priscus	616
Servius Tullius	578
Tarquinius Superbus	534
Titus Lartius Dictator	498
Battle of the Lake Regillus	496
Death of Tarquin	495
Exile of Coriolanus	491
Massacre of the Fabii	477
Advance of the Gauls against Rome	
Lucius Sextius—first Plebeian Consul	366
Outbreak of the first Samnite war	343
Subjugation of the Latins and Volscians	338
Outbreak of the second Samnite war	326
Outbreak of the third Samnite war	298
Invasion of Italy by Pyrrhus	280
Battle of Beneventum	275
Outbreak of the first Punic war	265
Battle of Mylæ	260
Hamilcar Barca made Carthaginian General	247
End of the first Punic war	241
Second Punic war begun	218
Battle of Zama	202
Battle of Cynoscephalæ	197
Battle of Magnesia	190

	B.C.
Death of Hannibal	183
Battle of Pydna	168
Outbreak of the third Punic war	149
Taking of Carthage	146
Taking of Corinth	146
Rebellion against Galba in Spain	150
Surrender of Numantina	133
Death of Tiberius Gracchus	132
Pergamus becomes a Roman Province under the title of Asia	130
Death of Caius Gracchus	121
War declared with Jugurtha	111
First consulship of Marius	107
Invasion of the Teutons and Cimbri and battle of Acquæ Sextiæ	102
Outbreak of the Marsic, or social war	90
Mithridates, King of Pontus, declares war with Rome	88
Sulla Dictator	81
Sulla lays down the Dictatorship	79
Insurrection of Spartacus	73
Death of Sertorius	72
Taking of Jerusalem by Pompey	63
Death of Mithridates	63
Landing of Cæsar in Britain	55
Defeat of Vercingetoria	51
Battle of Pharsalia	48
Battle of Thapsus	46
Death of Cæsar	44
Battle of Philippi	42
Battle of Actium	31
	A.D.
Augustus Cæsar Emperor	27
Defeat of Varus in Germany	9
Tiberius	14
Crucifixion of Our Lord	35
Caligula	37
Claudius	41
Caractacus taken prisoner to Rome	51
Nero	54

	A.D.
Galba	68
Otho	69
Vitellius	69
Vespasian	70
Taking of Jerusalem by Titus	70
Titus	79
Domitian	81
Nerva	96
Trajan	98
Hadrian	117
Antoninus Pius	138
Marcus Aurelius Antoninus	161
Martyrdom of Polycarp	166
Martyrdom of Irenæus	177
Commodus	180
Pertinax	192
Didius Julianus	193
Septimius Severus	193
Caracalla and Geta	211
Macrinus	217
Elagabalus	217
Alexander Severus	222
Maximin	235
Persecution of the Christians by Decius	249
Valerian	253
Aurelian	270
Claudius Tacitus	275
Florian	275
Probus	276
Carus and Carinus	282
Carinus	283
Diocletian	285
Persecution of the Christians by Diocletian	303
Constantine the Great	306
Council of Nicæa	325
Constantine II. Constans and Constantius	337
Julian	361
Jovian	363
Valentinian and Valens	364

	A.D.
Migration of the Huns into Europe	375
Battle of Adrianople and death of Valens	378
Theodosius	378
Honorius and Arcadius, Emperors of the West and East	395
Invasion of Alaric the Goth	402
Sacking of Rome by Alaric	410
Death of Honorius	423
Valentinian III.	425
Battle of Chalons	451
Death of Attila	453
Battle of Soissons	486
Death of Romulus Augustulus	476

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF PROPER NAMES.

Achāā	Coriōlānus	Longīnus
Adhērbal	Cynoscēphālæ	Lucēres
Agathōcles	Dēcīmus Brūtus	Lusitāniā
Agrīcōla	Dēmōsthēnes	Macrīnus
Agrīgentum	Dyrrhachīum	Mamertīne
Ahāla	Eborācum	Marciāna
Antīgōnus	Elagabālus	Māssīnissa
Antīochus	Eusēbīus	Massīva
Archēlāus	Faustīna	Mediōlānum
Archimēdes	Faustūlus	Messalīna
Aristobūlus	Fucīnus	Messāna
Attila	Gallia Cisalpīna	Mētellus (Cæcīlius)
Avēntīne	Germānicus	Mīcipsa
Bācchānālia	Gīrgēnti	Misēnum
Boadicēa	Hāmīlcar Bārca	Mithridātes
Bōmīlcar	Hannībal	Nasīca (Scipīo)
Britannīcus	Hasdrūbal	Neāpōlis
Brundūsīum	Heliogabālus	Nīcōpōlis
Calīgūla	Hēraclēia	Nōricum
Cārācālla	Herculanēurn	Odenātus
Cāpitolīne	Hērūli	Odoācer
Caractācus	Hyrēanus	Pergāmus
Cāssīvelaunus	Ibērus	Pharnāces
Cātūlus (Lutā- tīus)	Illyricum	Plotīna
Celtibērian	Irēnēus	Polybīus
Cincinnatiūs (L Quintīus)	Josēphus	Quirīnus
Collatīnus	Jūgēra	Quirīnal
Commōdus	Jūgūrtha	Quirīnālis
	Jūvēnal	Quintīlis
	Lepīdus	Rēgillus

Rōmūlus Augus-	Sōphōnisba	Trasimēnus
tūlus	Spartācus	Trebia
Sāgūntum	Stilicho	Tribūta
Sejānus	Suetōnīus	Ulphīlas
Senēca	Tācītus	Verūlam
Sevērus (Septīmīus)	Thessalonīca	Vercingetōrix
Silēnus	Ticinus	Viriāthus
Sīpylus	Tigrānes	Xānthippus

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